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Advancing equity, from COVID to Mpox

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ELECTED UNOPPOSED

Jay Shah to take over as ICC chairperson

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Protesters, police clash in Kolkata; BJP calls bandh

The two sides engage in pitched battles on roads leading to the State Secretariat; police use water cannons and tear gas to disperse crowd, arrest 126 agitators; 15 police personnel injured

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Violence erupted on the streets of the twin cities of Howrah and Kolkata on Tuesday during the "March to Nabanna" in which protesters demanded the resignation of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over the rape and murder of a doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital. Nabanna is the State Secretariat.

High alert: RAF personnel attempt to disperse protesters headed to the State Secretariat in Howrah on Tuesday. PTI

For several hours, the police and protesters engaged in pitched battles. Scores of water cannons were used to disperse the crowd that marched through different roads in Howrah and Kolkata towards the Secretariat. The police fired hundreds of tear gas shells to keep the protesters away as they tried to breach the barricades. Despite widespread violence, the police prevented protesters from reaching within 100 metres of the Secretariat.

Even though the march was called by an apolitical student group, the Paschimbango Chhatro Samaj, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leadership in the State called for a 12-hour Bengal bandh on Wednesday, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., for the 'police excesses' on the protesters. "This bandh is to protect the people of the State from an autocratic government and restore democracy in the State," State BJP president Sukanta Majumdar said.

Governor C.V. Ananda Bose said the police action on the protesters left "the national flag, national sentiments and the nation insulted". "What we saw on the streets of Kolkata is the worst one can expect from a democratically elected government," he said.

The State government said all measures would be taken to ensure that life remained unaffected on Wednesday. "The government will not allow any bandh on Wednesday. We urge people not to participate in it," said Alapan Bandopadhyay, chief advisor to the Chief Minister.

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Mohanlal resigns, AMMA panel dissolved over plaints

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The executive committee of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes (AMMA) was on Tuesday dissolved amid growing allegations of sexual assault and misbehaviour against its members.

All the 17 members of the committee, including president and senior actor Mohanlal, have submitted their resignation after an emergency online meeting of the actors' body decided that the committee should be disbanded over such allegations. The committee was elected in June and it had a tenure up to 2027.

Actor Joy Mathew told *The Hindu* that this was a unanimous decision. The decision comes two days after actor Siddique, former general secretary of the association, had resigned after actor Revathy Sampath accused him of sexually assaulting her when she had been a minor.

Members of the Women Justice Movement protest in front of the Superintendent of Police's office in Palakkad. K.K. MUSTAFAH

The committee decided to step down taking moral responsibility for the developments since the release of the K. Hema Committee report on the problems faced by women in the Malayalam film industry.

Besides Mohanlal, committee vice-presidents Jagadish and R. Jayan, treasurer Unni Mukundan, joint secretary Baburaj, and executive committee members Kalabhavan Shajon, Suraj Venjaramoodu, Joy Mathew, Suresh Krishna, Tini Tom, Ananya, Vinu Mohan, Tovino Thomas, Sarayu Mohan and Anseeba also resigned.

There were rumblings of discontent within the association as a few actors, including Prithviraj, had demanded that those facing allegations must step down from their posts.

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NEARBY

New liquor prices likely in a week

BENGALURU
While rates of premium liquor in Karnataka were expected to come down by around 20% from Tuesday, the policy change might take about a week to kick in, with the new rate cards still to be announced. » PAGE 6

Bypolls: BJP high command begins consultations

BENGALURU
The BJP high command has begun consultations with State leaders on the bypolls to three Assembly seats in Karnataka and the future course of action for the coalition partners after their padayatra on alleged irregularities in MUDA.

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State has lost over 280 elephants in the last 3 years

BENGALURU
Karnataka, which has the largest elephant population in the country, has, in the last three years, lost more than 280 jumbos, of which over 30 died of electrocution. On Tuesday, a tusker died of electrocution in a farm in Chikkamagaluru district. » PAGE 4

Darshan to be shifted to Ballari District Prison

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Jailed actor Darshan will be shifted to Ballari District Prison, even as other co-accused in the Renukaswamy murder case will be dispersed across various prisons across the State. Darshan will be the only accused in the case to be lodged in the Ballari prison. Meanwhile, the prime accused in the case and Darshan's partner, Pavithra Gowda, will stay in Bengaluru.

Acting on a petition by the Prisons and Correctional Services Department, the 24th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate issued orders to the effect on Tuesday.

Darshan

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah ordered the State police to take measures to disperse the accused in the case across various prisons in the State in the aftermath of a photograph and video exposing preferential treatment to Darshan went viral on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Home Minister G. Parameshwara announced a review of security measures at all prisons across the State led by a senior Indian Police Service officer.

The State government also transferred out Somashekhar, who was Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), Prisons and Correctional Services, and was overseeing Parappana Agrahara Central Prison and replaced him with Divyashree Khushi.

This comes a day after nine prison officials were suspended. The State government posted K. Suresh as Chief Superintendent of Parappana Agrahara Central Prison in place of V. Sheshamurthy, who was suspended on Monday.

RELATED REPORTS ON
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Festive rivalry

Sky high: Devotees help a man jump as he tries to reach the *dahi handi* (curd pot) suspended in the air above a water well during Janmashtami celebrations in Kurdus village near Alibaug in Raigad district of Maharashtra. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Bodies of two girls found hanging from tree in U.P.

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The bodies of two teenage girls were found hanging from a tree in a mango orchard outside Bhagautipur village in Farrukhabad, Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday.

The girls, aged 15 and 18, left their homes in a neighbouring village on Monday evening to attend Janmashtami celebrations but did not return, the family said. "The post-mortem report matched with initial police findings and FSL findings. It is a case of suicide with no external assault or injury found on the body," Alok Priyadarshi, Superintendent of Police, said.

SC stays AYUSH Ministry's notification omitting key rule prohibiting misleading advertisements

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> The intention of the May 7 order was to enforce Rule 170. Now, in view of this omission, any manufacturer can with impunity go around advertising its drugs
>
> JUSTICE SANDEEP MEHTA

The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed a July 1 notification issued by the AYUSH Ministry in which Rule 170 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 was "omitted". The Rule deals with the power to take action against objectionable or misleading advertisements about Ayurvedic, Siddha, and Unani drugs.

A Bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Sandeep Mehta told Additional Solicitor-General K. Nataraj that the notification was in the teeth of a May 7 order passed by the Supreme Court in a contempt case against Patanjali Ayurved Limited, a company co-founded by yoga guru Baba Ramdev.

The May 7 order had directed the Ministry to withdraw its August 29, 2023 letter sent to drug licensing authorities across States and Union Territories informing them that Rule 170 was no longer operational on the basis of a recommendation made by the Ayurvedic, Siddha, and Unani Drugs Technical Advisory Board (ASUDTAB) to omit the provision. The Ministry had agreed to comply with the court's order.

However, the Ministry went on to issue the July 1 notification, which did not withdraw the August 2023 letter, while omitting to bring Rule 170 back into play. "The intention of the May 7 order was to enforce Rule 170. Now, in view of this omission, any manufacturer can with impunity go around advertising its drugs," Justice Mehta said.

Mr. Nataraj said he would file an affidavit to explain. "This flies in the teeth. No affidavit. We are quashing your notification here and now. How could you file this with an affidavit explaining it? We are really surprised. You are violating our order. This is not appreciated," Justice Kohli noted.

In its order, the court recorded that the Centre "instead of withdrawing the letter dated August 29, 2023, for reasons best known to the Ministry, a notification dated July 1 to omit Rule 170 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 has been issued which runs contrary to directions issued by this court".

Meanwhile, the Bench found the unconditional apology published in 20 editions of the print version of *The Hindu* by Indian Medical Association (IMA) president R.V. Asokan as illegible as the font was minuscule. The IMA, which had filed the contempt case against Patanjali Ayurved, saw a reversal of fortune when the court took serious exception to remarks made by Dr. Asokan about a Supreme Court order in the case during a media interview.

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SC grants bail to Kavitha, questions fairness of probe

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered Bharat Rashtra Samithi leader K. Kavitha's release on bail "forthwith" in the politically charged Delhi liquor policy case, which saw high-profile arrests including of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal just days ahead of the Lok Sabha election in April.

Though a bail hearing, oral comments made by the judges managed to cast a shadow over the fairness of the probe, conducted by the ED and the CBI in the case. A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan accused the Central agencies of following a "pick and choose" policy on whom to be dropped and whom to be made accused.

The court was referring to the prosecution's move to make Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy, MP of NDA partner Telugu Desam Party, only a witness in the case while his son, Raghav Magunta Reddy, turned from an accused into an approver. "This is a sorry state of affairs. If he has a role, his role is almost equal to that of Kavitha... According to you, the first meeting was with Kejriwal... Kejriwal tells that Kavitha is also interested, so you coordinate with her. Everything was finalised at his residence... Yet, he is not made an accused," Justice Gavai remarked orally.

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OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 3

Patience still has a place in cricket's changing landscape

Haryana batters Mayank Shandilya, Nishant Sindhu, Dheeru Singh, and Himanshu Rana dig deep on a spiteful pitch, turn the clock back to salvage a draw against TNCA XI

M. PERIASAMY

Tarun Shastry
CHENNAI

They came. They blocked. They drew. A game that was all but lost was salvaged.

Success often requires more than just talent. It demands hard work, resilience, patience, and a steely resolve to endure the grind day in and day out.

Test cricket is aptly named due to the rigours it poses for players over three sessions and 90 overs per day for five days. Endurance aside, the ability to stay calm and composed over extended periods is often the difference between

It is a game of endurance and mental strength for both sides, where the ability to stay calm and composed over long periods often determines the outcome between victory and defeat. Ask Haryana.

Haryana's Mayank Shandilya (45, 235b), Nishant Sindhu (27, 64b) , Dheeru Singh (21, 58b), and Himanshu Rana (46 n.o, 151b) persevered in Coimbatore against TNCA XI on a vicious surface in one of the most prestigious domestic competitions, the All-India Buchi Babu tournament.

Haryana needed every drop of inspiration it could get. The side had a mountain to climb, with a daunting 353 needed against a spin-heavy bowling attack. The TNCA XI had every right to fancy its chances on the final day, conceding just 16 runs after taking two wickets already at the end of the third day.

They took a leaf out of current Indian head coach Gautam Gambhir's book. The left-hander played a marathon innings (643 minutes) in Napier to save a Test against a strong New Zealand attack on a pitch that favoured the bowlers.

Inspired effort

With the conditions being overcast and the bowlers swinging the ball both ways, Gambhir played an innings of a lifetime scoring 137 in 436 balls over a period of two days. He forged crucial partnerships with Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar and V.V.S. Laxman which ultimately rescued India.

The batters got their basics right and stuck to what childhood coaches would drill into the systems of budding cricketers when they were starting out: Put your head down and play along the ground, leave the deliveries outside off, wait for the bad balls, and punish them.

On a final day surface that had spin, bounce, and bite, Mayank, Nishant, and Himanshu, with their backs to the wall, blocked...blocked...and blocked.

They stood tall, left well outside the off-stump and defended everything thrown at them by the tweakers over after over.

In a riveting display of batsmanship, while the spinners bowled on the rough created by the bowlers' footmarks throughout the day, they played one of the most mature knocks, filled with determination and grit. Some deliveries kicked up from the crack and spun a mile, while some literally rolled through to the keeper, which should have created a lot of doubt in the batters' minds. But unfazed, and with single-minded focus they knew the ones to leave and the ones to play and saved the game.

Haryana broke the game hour by hour, with batters periodically pausing play to tie their laces, change gloves or their helmets, call for medical attention for a pull in the leg and so on. The idea was to run the clock down with wickets intact.

The TNCA XI, to its credit, was relentless at the other end. Skipper R. Sai Kishore strategically brought in all his fielders to surround the batter to try and create an opportunity for a dismissal or at the very least unsettle the batter on strike. TNCA looked all set to shake hands but it looked like someone from the dugout urged them to keep going. Haryana was unfazed. They were happy to play it safe and not give the opponent an inch.

Hopeless situations can sometimes welcome haste but Haryana kept those itches to go all out at bay. They played for time with confidence in their ability to defend.

If TNCA XI's B. Indrajith's knock of 167 in the first innings under tough conditions was terrific, then Mayank, Dheeru, and Himanshu's knocks in the fourth innings to save the match were gold dust.

THE GIST

- Despite reducing Haryana to 16/2 at the end of day 3, R. Sai Kishore's TNCA XI could not shake the resolve of their opponents as they battled to salvage a draw
- Haryana's Mayank Shandilya, Nishant Sindhu, Dheeru Singh and Himanshu Rana stuck to the basics of the longest format of the game to deny TNCA
- Their resistance overshadowed B. Indrajith's fluent knock of 167 in the first innings

Michal Szubarczyk — Poland's snooker prodigy aiming to take the world by storm

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Michal Szubarczyk is calm and measured at the snooker table, save for the occasional annoyed grimace when things go awry. "When I miss a shot, I have a problem accepting it," Michal says.

The 13-year-old from Poland had a good run in the IBSF World under-17 boys' snooker championship at the Karnataka State Billiards Association (KSBA) here. Michal won all three of his group stage matches, before cruising past Saudi Arabia's Ziyad Alqabbani in the quarterfinal. The youngest among the semifinalists, Michal went down to Thailand's Lomnaw Issarangkun.

Michal was particularly impressive against Saudi Arabia's Abdulaziz Alaswad, notching up breaks of 82, 48 and 84. A natural potter with good break-building nuance, Michal stands out as a natural talent.

His cue sport journey started at the age of six, when he saw multiple-time world champion Ronnie O'Sullivan on television. "My father was watching snooker on television. I saw Ronnie O'Sullivan play. I was inspired to go to the club with my dad to try snooker," Michal says.

Michal is accompanied at this tournament by his father Kamil, who doubles up as a referee. "I am Michal's father, coach, manager, driver... everything," Kamil laughs and says.

Kamil is a pillar of support for his son. When it became apparent that Michal needed expert guidance to further his ambitions, Kamil enrolled himself in a coaching certification program in the European Billiards and Snooker Association.

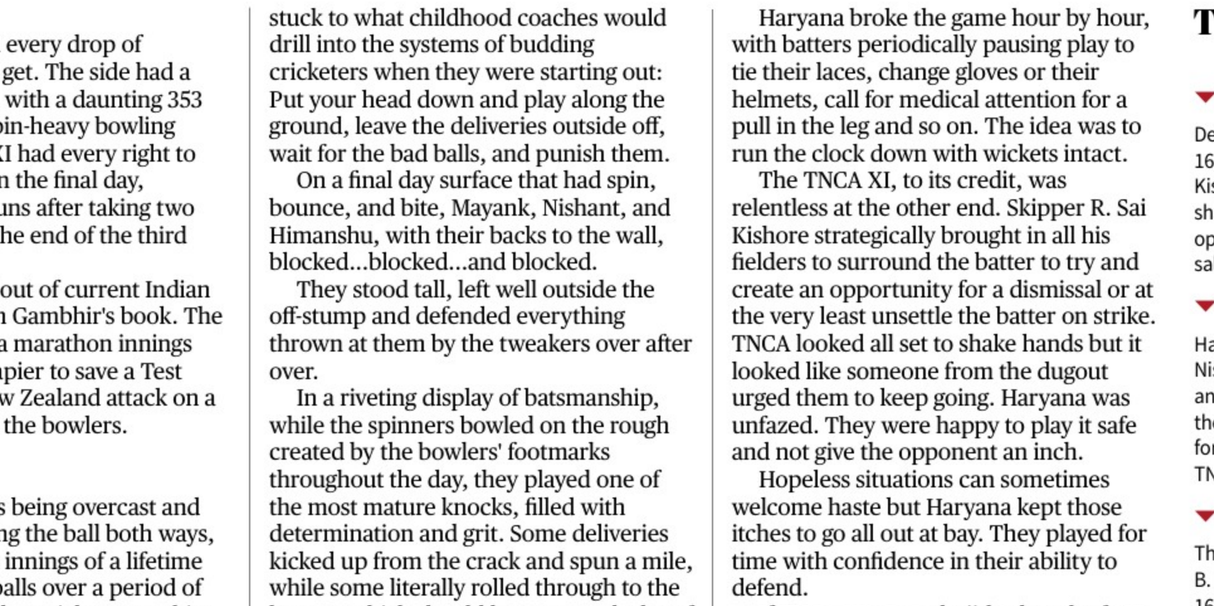
Enduring hardships

Michal's route to the professional snooker arena is not straightforward, given that Poland has not produced many world-class players. "When Michal was seven, we decided that he needs to work towards becoming a professional. People said we were crazy," Kamil says.

Even finding a good practice facility in Poland is proving to be difficult. "There are very few tables available for us in Poland. Compare this to London, where I can search for a snooker club on my phone and I find more than 40 clubs available just in that area," Kamil says.

Snooker is way down the popularity list when it comes to sports in Poland. Kamil hopes that Michal will be able to break all barriers on the world stage, which would raise the profile of the sport in the country. "For now, football, volleyball and basketball are popular in Poland. Snooker is not in the picture," Kamil says.

There is a paucity of fund support that the duo can get from the Poland government, as snooker is not an Olympic sport. Michal's presence in this tournament is sponsored by the Polish Billiards and Snooker Association, while Kamil supplements the income through payments made for his referee duties. "We received a donation from a Polish foundation last year, which was most useful," Kamil says.



K. MURALI KUMAR

Michal also has to juggle his school work, which can be a challenge when he tours. Kamil is encouraged by Michal's startling achievements in his fledgling career. The teenager took bronze in the European under-16 championship, won the six-red Poland Open senior nationals, and also claimed the national under-18 and under-21 titles. Michal dominated the six-red Poland Open senior nationals, going through the tournament without losing a single frame. The field included highly rated Antoni Kowalski, who earned a two-year card on the World Snooker Tour. Michal is poised to compete in the European six-red tournament soon.

This IBSF World under-17 boys' snooker championship may not offer a professional card for winners, but for young talent like Michal, it is a chance to test themselves against the best in the world. "The high level of competition in these tournaments helps to develop players. There aren't many teenagers in Poland who can practice with Michal. This is also a chance to travel and experience different cultures, different cuisines. All this is important to get a youngster ready for the professional world," Kamil says.

Right mindset

Kamil stresses on the importance of having the right mindset in order to succeed. This is easier said than done, as Michal has other interests, like any other teenager. The phone and social media, for example, is a distraction one can do without, Kamil says. "Michal has not had a problem with his phone for the last three days, because I have kept his phone outside the window of our fourth floor hotel room. He also wants to play video games like every teenager, but we made a collective decision that we will not have these distractions come in the way of achieving the dream," Kamil says.

Harsh as it may seem, this is the type of single-minded dedication that is required to break new ground.

Asked about his biggest dream, Michal says, "I want to play professional snooker."

Kamil gently interrupts and prompts a correction. "Michal, playing professional snooker is not your biggest dream. Think bigger..," Kamil says.

Michal pauses and clarifies. "I want to be the professional world champion," Michal says, to a pat on the back from his father.

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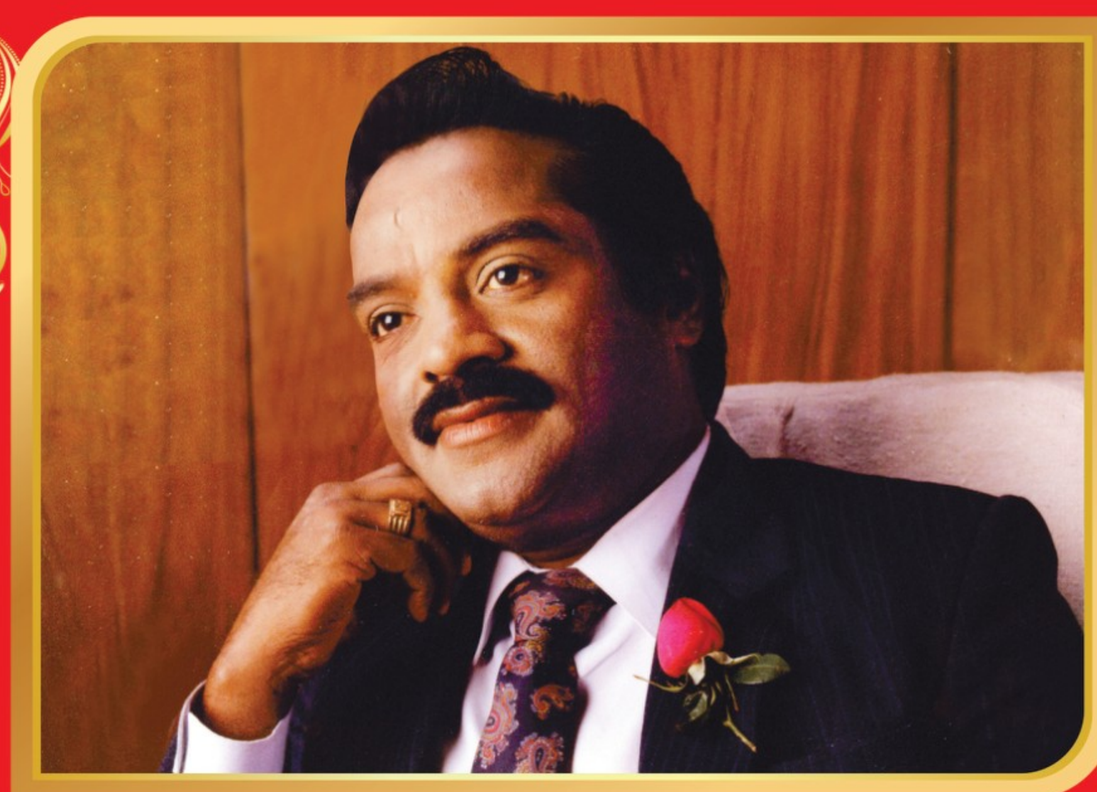

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Vinesh Phogat versus the complex biochemistry of losing weight

While weight loss is on the face of it equal to energy expenditure minus intake, it is mediated by the brain, the gut, and some other physical components of the body. It is also complicated by the metabolic set-point, an individual's innate weight range that the body endeavours to preserve

Sayantan Datta
SRI CITY

On August 7, Vinesh Phogat was set to become the first Indian woman to compete in a wrestling final at the Olympics. At the 2024 games in Paris, she had defeated defending Olympic champion Yui Sasaki (Japan) and European and Pan-American champions Oksana Livach (Ukraine) and Yusneylis Guzman (Cuba) in that order, guaranteeing herself at least a silver medal.

That morning, however, Vinesh's weight was found to be about a hundred grams more than 50 kg – the maximum permitted in the category she was competing in. The game's rules demanded that she be disqualified. The silver medal, initially seen as a consolation in case she lost the final, was now out of her reach.

The next day Vinesh retired from wrestling, although media reports have said she may reconsider.

Physically a hundred grams isn't much, but biologically it's a lot. The things Vinesh tried to bring her weight under 50 kg left her unwell and requiring medical care, speaking to the difficulties of gaining and losing weight. But why are they so difficult?

Vinesh tried a combination of sauna visits, static cycling, running, and exercising at night to avoid being disqualified at the Paris Olympics. PTI

The physiology of weight

Losing or gaining weight is on the face of it a function of "one's energy intake and expenditure," Sanjay Kalra, an endocrinologist in Karnal, Haryana, said. If an individual intends to lose weight, it should ideally suffice for them to reduce the amount of energy they take in as food and increase the amount of energy they lose through exercise.

There is more to the story, however.

It plays out on at least three levels, according to Dr. Kalra:

(i) The brain: The hypothalamus, a small part of the brain, produces two kinds of hormones: orexigenic hormones increase appetite and anorexigenic hormones lower appetite and increase satiety.

Hormones are molecules produced in one part of the body that exert their effects on a different and often distant part. The orexigenic and anorexigenic hormones are produced in the hypothalamus and show their effects on other parts of the brain and in the gut.

(ii) The bowels: The gut produces hormones that can directly communicate with the brain to regulate appetite; it also regulates the rate at which food flows through the gut, which affects body weight.

A 1976 paper in the journal *Gut* reported that when food moved faster from the stomach to the small intestine, the intestine had more time to absorb calories from the food, leading to higher body weight. Conversely, lower body weight was associated with slower food movement from the stomach to the small intestine.

(iii) The brawn: "The brawn refers to the physical build of the body," Dr. Kalra said. It has two kinds of hormones that he called "burners" and "builders". Burners, including hormones produced by the thyroid, increase metabolism and lead to weight loss. Builders, like insulin, help incorporate glucose from the bloodstream into liver and fat cells and skeletal muscles, leading to weight gain.

Complicating the story further is a person's "metabolic set-point". A term proposed in 1982 by American nutrition researchers William Bennett and Joel Gurin in their book 'The Dieter's Dilemma', the set-point refers to an individual's innate weight range that the body attempts to preserve.

When the individual tries to lose weight by, say, regulating their diet, the body kicks in mechanisms that lead to weight gain.

"This makes weight loss incredibly challenging," Dr. Kalra said.

Losing weight rapidly

Christianez Ratna Kiruba, a general medicine physician in Guwahati, said every human's weight has three main contributions: from skeletal muscles, fat, and water. The exact contribution of each varies from one individual to the next, but in all bodies the biggest contributor is water.

Thus rapid weight gain or loss targets the fluid content of a body. According to Dr. Kiruba, "The methods Vinesh Phogat was using to reduce her weight appeared to target water weight."

According to media reports, Vinesh tried a combination of sauna visits, static cycling, running, and exercising in the gym the night before her weighing.

Gaining or losing water leads to an overall increase or reduction in body weight because of carbohydrates. Dr. Kalra said the body stores carbohydrates mainly as glycogen (a polymer of glucose molecules), most of which goes to the skeletal muscles and the liver.

But whenever glycogen is shuttled into muscles, it is stored in a hydrated form, so water gets in as well. According to one estimate, every gram of glycogen brings about 3 grams of water along.

This is why rapid weight loss protocols target carbohydrates by reducing their intake as well as storage. As the amount of carbohydrates drops in the body, so does the amount of water, leading to weight loss.

"This is why people see rapid weight loss in the initial few days of dieting and exercise," Dr. Kiruba said.

In addition to carbohydrates, other factors including salt intake also affect body weight by involving water. In 2021, a group of scientists in the U.S. compared the beverage hydration index of electrolyte-, protein- or carbohydrate-rich fluids against plain water.

This index is used to measure the amount of water a body retains after consuming a fluid. They found electrolyte-rich fluids led to the highest amount of water retention.

Consuming excess salt increases the concentration of sodium ions – a type of electrolyte – in the body. In response, the body reduces the amount of water excreted through urine to ensure the sodium-to-water ratio is constant. This in turn leads to water retention and a higher body weight.

> Even though there are medicines that can induce weight loss, most of them would amount to doping in sports contexts
> Dr. Sanjay Kalra
> endocrinologist

Sex matters

After Vinesh's disqualification, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) appealed to the Lausanne-based Court for Arbitration of Sports (CAS), an international body that adjudicates in sports-related disputes. One of the IOA's arguments was: "The biological difference in the bodies of male and female wrestlers, particularly in light of the menstruation of women, needs to be taken into account whilst determining the eligibility of female wrestlers on the second day of the weigh-in."

The IOA also provided medical certificates highlighting Vinesh was close to her menstrual period. CAS replied that such differences are "speculative and unsupported by evidence". Both Dr. Kalra and Dr. Kiruba said some women might gain body weight during the latter part of their menstrual cycle, closer to their periods. In this time, women are in the luteal phase of the cycle: the time when the levels of the hormone progesterone are high in the body. According to Dr. Kalra, about 25% of women experience bloating and water retention in this time and may gain weight. That said, evidence of progesterone's impact on body weight is controversial.

In 1967, researchers reported that progesterone could increase the body weight of female rats, but subsequent evidence suggested the hormone in human females may either not lead to a change in body weight or lead to its reduction. Even in human males, where the adrenal glands produce low levels of progesterone, researchers have associated the hormone with lower body weight.

The contradictory observations can be explained by the metabolic effects of progesterone. It can increase the amount of insulin, which leads to more glycogen being stored in the liver along with water. On the other hand, according to a 1982 study, progesterone "antagonises the effects of insulin" in fat tissue and skeletal muscle, leads to larger fat deposits, and a faster rate of protein breakdown.

Weight v. athletic advantage

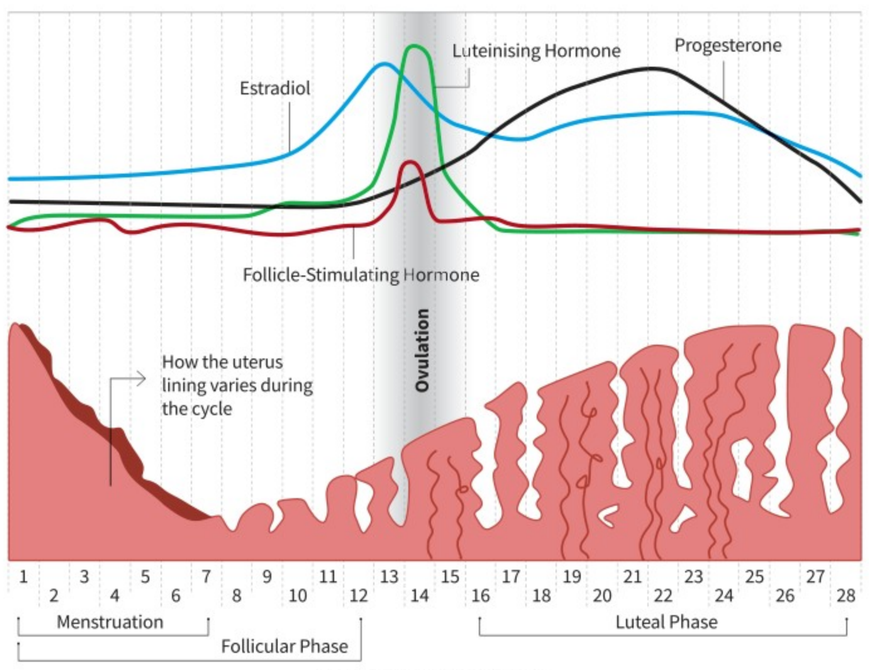
Dr. Kalra said that, in Vinesh's case, he believes little could have been done to lower her weight further. One option he said could have been to medically regulate her menstrual cycle to ensure she was in the low-progesterone phase, together with a stricter weight monitoring regime. As controversial as menstrual regulation sounds, Dr. Kalra said it is a "regular reality for many women athletes". "Even though there are medicines that can induce weight loss, most of them would amount to doping in sports contexts," he added.

Vinesh's inability to make the required weight may have stemmed from being compelled to compete in the 'wrong' category. Most wrestlers compete in categories where the maximum weight limit is slightly less than their regular weight. Vinesh's regular weight was around 55 kg, so the more appropriate category might have been 53 kg. But another wrestler had already been selected to represent India in that category, so Vinesh was slotted into the 50-kg group. Dr. Kiruba said Vinesh's case shines light on the potential need for Olympic rules to consider whether small increases in weight correspond to athletic advantage. According to her, athletic advantages stem mostly from skeletal muscle mass and not from water weight, which she suspected was the cause of Vinesh's higher weight on August 7 morning. By fixating more on the weight instead of whether the athlete acquired any actual advantages, the sports might be misjudging the eligibility of an individual to compete, she added.

(Sayantan Datta is a science journalist and a faculty member at Krea University. dattasayantan95@gmail.com)

Hormones during the menstrual cycle

Some women might gain body weight during the luteal phase, when progesterone levels are higher


Luteinising Hormone
Progesterone
Estradiol
Follicle-Stimulating Hormone
Ovulation
How the uterus lining varies during the cycle
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
Menstruation
Follicular Phase
Luteal Phase
Day of the menstrual cycle

Source: Speck-Made (CC BY-SA)

Northern bald ibises during a flight supported by their 'foster parents' on a microlight aircraft. AP

Northern bald ibis returns from near extinction

Associated Press

The northern bald ibis, hunted virtually to extinction by the 17th century, was revived by breeding and rewilding efforts over the last two decades.

But the birds – known for their distinctive black-and-iridescent green plumage, bald red head and long curved beak – do not instinctively know which direction to fly to migrate without the guidance of wild-born elders. So a team of scientists and conservationists stepped in as foster parents and flight instructors.

The northern bald ibis once soared over North Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, and much of Europe. The birds were also considered a delicacy and disappeared from Europe.

Though northern bald ibises still display the natural urge to migrate, they do not know which way to fly without the guidance of wild-born elders

The efforts of biologist Johannes Fritz and the Waldrappteam, a conservation group in Austria, brought the Central European population from zero to almost 300 since the start of their project in 2002. The feat moved the species from a "critically endangered" classification to "endangered" and, Mr. Fritz says, is the first attempt to reintroduce a continentally extinct migratory bird species.

Though northern bald ibises still display the natural urge to migrate, they do not know which way to fly without the guidance of wild-born elders. The Waldrappteam's early reintroduction attempts were largely unsuccessful because, without teaching the birds the migration route, most disappeared soon after release. Instead of returning to suitable wintering grounds in Italy, they flew in different directions and ultimately died. So the Waldrappteam stepped in as foster parents and flight instructors for the Central European population, which was made up of descendants from multiple zoo colonies and released into the wild in the hopes of creating a migratory group.

To prepare them for travel, the chicks are removed from their breeding colonies when they are just a few days old. They are taken to an aviary overseen by the foster parents in the hopes of "imprinting" – when the birds will bond with those humans to ultimately trust them along the migration route.

Barbara Steininger, a Waldrapp team foster mother, said she acts like "their bird mom." "We feed them, we clean them, we clean their nests. We take good care of them and see that they are healthy birds," she said. "But also we interact with them."

Ms. Steininger and the other foster parents then sit on the back of a microlight aircraft, waving and shouting encouragement through a bullhorn as it flies through the air. The aircraft looks like a flying go-kart with a giant fan on the back and a yellow parachute keeping it aloft. Still, three dozen birds follow the contraption, piloted by Mr. Fritz, as it sails over alpine meadows and foothills.

The first bird independently migrated back to Bavaria in 2011 from Tuscany. More have flown the route longer than 550 km each year, and the team hopes the Central European population will be more than 350 birds by 2028 and become self-sustaining.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Rowdy sheeters held under draconian laws had access to phones

Police seek transfer of 8 rowdy sheeters to various prisons across State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Darshan (left) speaking on a video call from the Central Prison.

The recent episode of preferential treatment to actor Darshan has also exposed how rowdy sheeters, who have even been arrested under the draconian Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act, 2000 and lodged in Parappana Agrahara Central Prison, also have access to all facilities and are potentially continuing their illegal activities from inside prison.

This has been a serious concern to maintain law and order in the city. In this light, City Police Commissioner B. Dayananda said they have requested concerned authorities to shift eight rowdy sheeters to various prisons across the State.

In the case of both the photo and the video of Darshan that went viral, stirring controversy, rowdy sheeters Wilson Garden Naga, Kulla Seena and Dharma were involved, and it is clear that they have access to mobile phones apart from other facilities. Wilson Garden Naga and Kulla Seena have been named in two FIRs registered now.

Central Crime Branch officials raided the prison on Saturday, following information that some of these rowdy sheeters had been using mobile phones inside prison and running crime syndicates outside, unabated. "This is a serious threat to peace in the city," a senior CCB official said.

However, the raid failed as it has now been revealed that the prison officials and inmates were tipped off about the raids in advance. CCB officials, who did not find any contraband in the prison, recovered CCTV footage from the prison, showing officials emptying cartons of contraband materials from the cells hours before the raids.

A probe has been launched to ascertain the source of the contraband items, and as to who all were controlling the operations inside the prison, a police officer said. An FIR has been registered based on the complaint filed by M. Somashekhar, who was DIG, Prisons till Monday and was transferred out on Tuesday, against prison officials Sudarshan K.S., Paramesh Nayak Lamani, Rayamane K.B. for cleaning contraband from all the cells with the help of a convict, Mujeeb.

Security at all prisons to be reviewed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Tuesday announced that security at all prisons in the State will be reviewed and reforms introduced in light of the recent exposure of several illegalities at the Central Prison Complex in Parappana Agrahara.

"A senior IPS officer will be appointed to review security measures at all prisons in the State. The panel will also probe into irregularities at the prisons and submit a report. Based on this, we will introduce new security measures," Dr. Parameshwara said.

He recalled that during his recent visit to Hindalga prison in Belagavi, he had got some irregularities rectified.

Dr. Parameshwara added that other district prisons will also be inspected and loopholes plugged.

The Home Minister said that Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil had in 2020, in his earlier capacity as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, visited several prisons and submitted a report on prison reforms. "We will introduce reforms in the State's prisons based on the recommendations of this report," Dr. Parameshwara said.

High drama at KSPCB office as Yatnal protests

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

High drama ensued at the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) office on Church Street on Tuesday late at night as senior BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal staged a dharna demanding Consent for Operation (CfO) for his sugar factory in Kalaburagi district.

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok joined him on Tuesday night and announced a protest against KSPCB on Wednesday.

The State government had moved against Mr. Yatnal's factory Siddhasiri Ethanol and Power Unit, in Chincholi, Kalaburagi district in November 2023. Forest Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre had in January 2024 warned of criminal action if the factory was not shut. He had said that the factory had installed boilers without obtaining permission and that the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests had earlier imposed a fine of ₹1.5 crore over the same.

Order challenged

Following this, Mr. Yatnal claimed that he challenged the KSPCB's order in the High Court of Karnataka and got an order in his favour on August 21. "The two-judge bench clearly directed the Board to issue CfO. I came to the KSPCB office at 1 p.m. on Tuesday. The member secretary H.C. Balachandra has been trying to dodge implementing the order," he alleged.

Mr. Ashok alleged large-scale corruption in giving CfOs to industries by KSPCB. However, he said Mr. Yatnal was being targeted either because he was an Opposition MLA or because he hasn't paid bribes.

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MRPL opens marketing terminal in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (MRPL), a subsidiary of ONGC, on Tuesday announced commissioning of its marketing terminal in Bengaluru. The terminal aims to enhance the availability and distribution of petroleum products, including, petrol, diesel, and aviation turbine fuel, catering to the region's growing energy demands.

This new terminal is located at Devangonthi in the eastern part of Bengaluru. The project is expected to be a shot in the arm for MRPL to meet its ambitious target of selling 1 million tonnes of fuel through the retail path through its popular brand "MRPL HiQ Auto fuels".

State will enhance security for women doctors: Minister

Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil at a meeting in Bengaluru on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka will enhance security for women doctors in the wake of growing concerns following the recent rape and murder of a woman doctor in Kolkata.

Minister for Medical Education & Skill Development Sharan Prakash Patil said this after a meeting with officials and key stakeholders on Tuesday at Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute (BMCRI) on bolstering security across medical institutions.

"Based on the feedback from this meeting, we will implement additional security measures, including installing more street lights, CCTV cameras, and trained security personnel at all medical colleges, super-speciality hospitals, and hostels. We are also prioritizing safety in women's restrooms in medical institutions," the Minister said.

These measures will be in line with the guidelines set by the Union government and the Supreme Court. He also sought to emphasise the importance of internal complaints committees established under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, stating that these bodies would rigorously address any grievances raised by women in the medical field.

Stringent action

The Minister warned the perpetrators of violence and sexual assault, stating that the government will take stringent action against such offenders.

The meeting was attended by Director of Medical Education Sujatha Rathod, Dean & Director of BMCRI Ramesh Krishna, Principal of BMCRI Asima Banh, directors of medical institutions and super-speciality hospitals, as well as representatives of senior resident doctors, UG and PG students, paramedical staff, and other stakeholders.

Power shutdown today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There will be no power supply on Wednesday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the areas serviced by 20 MVA transformer - 4 of 66/11 kV B Station for carrying out maintenance works.

Areas that will be affected are M.G. Road, Church Street, St. Marks Road, Lavelle Road, Museum Road, Rest House Road, Richmond Road, Kasturba Road, Walton Road, Dickenson Road, Ashok Nagar, Primrose Road, Residency Road, Trinity Circle, Halasuru Road, Murphy Town, Gangadhar Chetty Road, Haudin Road, Nala Road, Rest House Road, Crescent Road, Brigade Road, Jeevan Kendra Layout, Cambridge Layout, and surrounding areas.

THE HINDU
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KVB Towers, 3rd Floor, 568, Anna Salai, Teynampet, Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600018.
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Coimbatore Divisional Office
No.1498-C, 3rd Floor, KVB Towers, Avinashi Road, Peelamedu, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu - 641004.
Landmark: Near Tiruppur Mills.
Trichy Divisional Office
KVB Towers, 2nd Floor, Alexandria Road, Cantonment, Trichy, Tamil Nadu - 620001.
Landmark: Near Income Tax Office.
Madurai Divisional Office
No.16, 2nd Floor, Gayathri Illam, A.A Road, Gnanaolivupuram, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, 625016.
Landmark: Near Mathie Theatre, Arapalayam Bus stand.
Bangalore Divisional Office
No. 6, 2nd Floor, Vasavi Temple Road, Sajjan Rao Circle, V.V. Puram, Bangalore, Karnataka, 560004.
Landmark: Next to Sri Vasavi Temple.
Visakhapatnam Divisional Office
D.No: 47-10-15, Shop No.1, A.G Avenue, First Floor, 2nd Lane, Dwarakanagar, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh - 530016.
Landmark: Opp to Pollocks School.
Vijayawada Divisional Office
38-8-46, 2nd Floor, Gayathri Nilayam, Labbipet, M.G Road, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 520010.
Landmark: Opp. to All India Radio.
Interested candidates can walk in for an interview with updated resume, recent passport-size photo, valid ID proof, documents supporting education and experience.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The amount of rainfall Vadodara received on Monday

307 in mm. Vishwamitri river, which flows through the city, crossed the danger mark of 25 feet and was flowing at 35.25 feet on Tuesday afternoon following heavy rains and the release of dam waters. PTI

Australia plans to cap number of foreign students in 2025

2.7 in lakh. Australia plans to cap foreign student numbers starting next year and curb a multi-billion dollar industry as it faces political heat on immigration. Australia granted more than 5,77,000 international student visas in 2023. AFP

Tariffs slapped on Chinese electric vehicles by Canada

100 in per cent. Canada accused China — one of the world's largest exporters of electric vehicles — of "not playing by the same rules as other countries" in environmental and labour standards. AFP

The death toll after a dam collapsed in eastern Sudan

30 The Arbaat Dam was massively damaged because of heavy rains. In areas west of the dam, the flooding either destroyed or damaged the homes of 50,000 people. Heavy rain and flooding across Sudan impacted more than 3,17,000 people. AP

The increase in Coal India's contribution to the exchequer

2 State-owned Coal India Ltd contributed ₹20,071.96 crore to the government's exchequer in the April-July period of the ongoing fiscal year. CIL paid ₹19,666.04 crore to the exchequer in the year-ago period. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On SEBI chairperson's conflicts of interests

The actions and statements of SEBI chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch are in conflict with regulatory integrity; the SEBI's citation of Hindenburg's own conflict of interest in the matter as a short-seller, does not hold much water

FULL CONTEXT

Prasenjit Bose

It has been over two weeks since a Hindenburg Research report revealed serious conflicts of interests vis-a-vis the chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Two separate responses to the report were issued on August 11 – an unsigned statement from SEBI and a joint statement issued by Madhabi and Dhaval Buch. These statements in effect confirmed the veracity of Hindenburg's revelations, casting more doubts over the regulator's integrity. As the appointing authority of SEBI's whole-time members, the Central government owes explanations to all stakeholders.

Did the government know?

The first conflict of interest revealed by Hindenburg relates to an investment worth $8,72,762 (over ₹5.6 crore at the 2015 exchange rate) made by Madhabi and Dhaval Buch in Bermuda based Global Dynamic Opportunities Fund [GDOF Cell 90 (IPEplus Fund 1)] through Mumbai-headquartered IIFL Wealth & Asset Management Limited (now renamed 360 One).

Madhabi and Dhaval Buch's joint statement confirms the investment made in 2015 and clarifies that it was driven by the fund's Chief Investment Officer (CIO), Anil Ahuja, who was "Dhaval's childhood friend from school and IIT Delhi and, being an ex-employee of Citibank, J.P. Morgan and 3i Group plc, had many decades of a strong investing career". The statement says that the investment was redeemed in 2018 when Anil Ahuja left his position as CIO of the fund. The joint statement, however, fails to mention that Anil Ahuja also served as a director of Adani Enterprises Limited when that investment was made, and remained in that position until May 31, 2017. An email revealed by Hindenburg shows that it was Madhabi Buch who sent the redemption request to GDOF on behalf of Dhaval Buch on February 25, 2018, when she was already a whole-time member of SEBI (appointed on April 5, 2017).

Therefore, two obvious questions arise: first, was Madhabi Buch's investment in an offshore fund operated by a director of Adani Enterprises disclosed to the Central government prior to her appointment as a whole-time member of SEBI? Second, did her shareholding in the offshore fund after her appointment in April 2017, till its redemption in February 2018, have the approval of the Board? The Central government must clarify this.

Relevance to the Adani Group probe

The Hindenburg revelations are of vital consequence to the ongoing SEBI investigation into the Adani group companies as well as the Supreme Court order of January 3, 2024. While ruling that the investigation into the Adani group companies did not warrant a transfer from SEBI to a Special Investigation Team (SIT) or the CBI, the Supreme Court had held that the "threshold for such a transfer of investigation has not been demonstrated to exist". The Supreme Court appointed Expert Committee had elaborated in its report on how the SEBI (Foreign Portfolio Investors) Regulations, 2014 were diluted in 2018 and 2019 to enable the concealment of "ultimate beneficial owners" of offshore funds. The Expert Committee demonstrated that these regulatory amendments made it difficult to establish the ultimate beneficial owners of the 13 offshore funds that were suspected by SEBI for being fronts of the Adani promoter group.

Myriad questions: SEBI chairperson, Madhabi Puri Buch, interacts with the media during a press conference at the SEBI office, in Mumbai, on July 24. PTI

The funds under the SEBI investigation include the Emerging India Focus Funds and EM Resurgent Fund, which were managed by IIFL Wealth & Asset Management Limited (360 One), as revealed by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP). Was the Expert Committee made aware of Madhabi Buch's investment in such an opaque offshore fund through IIFL Wealth & Asset Management Limited (360 One), which was also managed by a director of Adani Enterprises, even after joining SEBI as a whole-time member? This evident conflict of interest remained unreported in the Expert Committee report as well as the top court order.

Moreover, SEBI had approved the acquisition of Ambuja Cements and ACC by the Adani group in August 2022 during Madhabi Buch's tenure as chairperson. In response to a RTI query in April 2023, SEBI disclosed that its chairperson had a meeting with the Adani group Chairman on August 11, 2022 at the SEBI headquarters to "discuss open offer applications of Ambuja Cements and ACC". There was a second meeting between the two on October 3, 2022 on an unspecified agenda.

The Adani group disclosed on August 23, 2022 that the acquirer of the controlling stakes in these cement companies was a Mauritius based company whose ultimate beneficial owner was Vinod Adani, establishing him as part of the promoter group. Despite this, the Adani group has continued to maintain that Vinod Adani is not a "related party" when it comes to the suspicious transactions in Adani shares by FPIs or offshore funds linked to him.

This obfuscation by the Adani group was enabled by successive amendments to the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (LODR) since 2018, redefining "related party" and "related party transactions". While the Expert Committee flagged the LODR amendments as regulatory dilutions, SEBI's approval of the Adani group's acquisitions of Ambuja Cements and ACC acquisitions was never examined.

SEBI's investigation into the violation of promoter shareholding regulations by listed Adani group companies had started in October 2020. Despite the Supreme Court prodding it to complete the probe by April 2024, SEBI's statement on August 11, 2024 describes the probe status as "close to completion".

In the light of the SEBI chairperson's conflict of interests, it not only appears to be a "glaring, wilful and deliberate inaction" on the part of the regulator but a calculated cover up operation. This warrants a transfer of the investigation to a SIT or the CBI. The role of the current SEBI chairperson and IIFL Wealth & Asset Management Limited (360 One) in all investigative matters related to the Adani group companies since 2018 also needs to be brought under the probe's ambit.

Other conflicts

Hindenburg has also raised concerns over the SEBI chairperson's shareholding in two consulting companies, namely India-based Agora Advisory and Singapore-based Agora Partners. Madhabi and Dhaval Buch's clarification that these companies "became immediately dormant on her appointment with SEBI", is *prima facie* false. The statement itself makes the self-contradictory claim that "after Dhaval retired from Unilever in 2019, he started his own consultancy practice through these companies" which allowed him to "work with prominent clients in the Indian industry".

Madhabi Puri Buch had served as a whole time member of SEBI between April, 2017 and October, 2021 and was subsequently appointed as its chairperson in March 2022. Documents from India's Corporate Affairs Ministry show Ms. Buch as the owner of 99% shares of Agora Advisory Private Limited as on March 31, 2024. This private company, active as on date, made over ₹3.6 crore in revenues between 2017 and 2024. The SEBI chairperson, who was a whole-time board member since 2017, has continued to occupy another office of profit, in violation of SEBI's "Code on Conflict of Interests for Members of Board" (Section 5.1). This not only makes her position as SEBI chairperson untenable but also implicates the entire Board along with its appointing authority, for allowing such subversion of its own code of conduct. There should be an immediate disclosure of all the clients of the Agora Advisory Private Limited and Agora Partners and a probe into probable *quid pro quo*.

Hindenburg has also revealed that Dhaval Buch's current employer, multinational private equity firm Blackstone, directly benefited from the SEBI chairperson's aggressive promotion and regulatory decisions vis-a-vis Real Estate Investment Funds (REITs). In response, SEBI states that "the claim that promoting REITs...among various other asset classes by SEBI was only for benefiting one large multinational financial conglomerate, is inappropriate".

Thus, there is neither a denial of SEBI chairperson's promotion of REITs nor of the fact that her husband's employer, Blackstone, made thousands of crores in profit through three out of four REIT IPOs, that have been approved by SEBI till date. The Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 mandates SEBI to protect the interests of the investors, and promote the development of and regulate the securities market. Promoting individual asset classes like REITs is not a function of SEBI, as defined under the laws. Rather, such favouritism towards a specific asset class by SEBI chairperson, particularly when her spouse is employed in a major player benefiting from such preferential treatment, amounts to a possible violation of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Terms and Conditions of Service of Chairman and Members) Rules, 1992.

The SEBI Rules prohibit the chairperson or whole-time members to have any financial or other interests which are likely to prejudicially affect their functioning.

What next?

The conflicts of interests vis-a-vis the SEBI chairperson are borne out through her own statements and actions, which is why SEBI's citation of Hindenburg's own conflict of interest in the matter as a short-seller in order to undermine the latter's revelations, does not hold much water. They must be addressed systemically in order to restore the regulator's credibility.

There has been a surge in retail investor participation in the Indian securities market in the past few years. The latest Economic Survey estimated that around 20% of Indian households may now be channelling their household savings into the financial markets. A compromised securities market regulator only enhances the risks to their financial security and overall financial stability.

Prasenjit Bose is an economist and activist.

THE GIST

- The first conflict of interest matter revealed by Hindenburg relates to an investment worth $8,72,762 made by Madhabi and Dhaval Buch in Bermuda based Global Dynamic Opportunities Fund through Mumbai-headquartered IIFL Wealth & Asset Management Limited.
- Hindenburg has also raised concerns over the SEBI chairperson's shareholding in two consulting companies, namely India-based Agora Advisory and Singapore-based Agora Partners.
- Hindenburg has also revealed that Dhaval Buch's current employer, multinational private equity firm Blackstone, directly benefited from the SEBI chairperson's aggressive promotion and regulatory decisions vis-a-vis Real Estate Investment Funds (REITs).

500 enrol for 'Join the Commute' campaign

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after the launch of the "Join the Commute" campaign by Bengaluru Traffic Police in the South Division, as many as 500 commuters registered to participate in the campaign to share their traffic experience with the police.

Shivaprakash Devaraju, DCP, Bangalore South Traffic, who launched the initiative, said that the idea is to directly involve citizens in identifying and resolving traffic challenges in the city.

As part of the campaign, Mr. Devaraju took his first commute with a citizen, Kumaran, from Hulimavu to Koramangala. During the commute, Kumaran highlighted critical issues such as vehicles parked on the road and congestion at intersections, which severely disrupt traffic flow and commuter safety.

"Since the launch of the campaign on Monday, there has been an overwhelming response from the public, with over 500 commuters eagerly registering to participate. This unprecedented level of enthusiasm demonstrates the deep-seated desire of Bengaluru's citizens for a more efficient and safe commuting experience," Mr. Devaraju said.

Kumaraswamy visits BHEL

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy, on Tuesday, visited Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) Electronics Division in Bengaluru, and expressed concern over the company's profit margins, emphasising the importance of vigilant management to avoid potential risks.

He urged officials and employees to ensure the company's continued financial health, highlighting the impact of the 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives in driving BHEL's success amidst technological advancements, said a release. Despite challenges, BHEL continues to operate profitably, with significant contributions to the power sector, where it holds over 40% market share in the thermal power segment, as well as to the Indian Army and the space sector, the Union Minister pointed out.

Mr. Kumaraswamy also referenced several review meetings held in New Delhi to assess the company's performance, commending BHEL's strong management, skilled workforce, and technical expertise.

State has lost more than 280 elephants in the last three years

As many as 37 elephants have died in 2024-25 so far. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka, which has the largest elephant population in the country, has, in the last three years, lost more than 280 jumbos, of which over 30 have died due to electrocution.

On Tuesday, a tusker died of electrocution in an areca farm at Kolagame village in Chikkamagaluru district. On June 11, the Dasara elephant Ashwathama died at its camp in Nagarahole Tiger Reserve also due to electrocution after it came in contact with a solar fence.

"It seems the elephant pushed an areca plant, which fell on a live wire. It died of electrocution," said Ramesh Babu, Deputy Conservator of Forests of Chikkamagaluru division. The incident occurred in the Muthodi range.

As per data, around 82 elephants died during 2021-22, 72 died in 2022-23, 97 in 2023-24, and 37 died in 2024-25 so far. Of these, over 30 elephants died due to electrocution, and six were poached.

This year, 37 elephants have been said to have died so far; of these, two died in January, six in February, seven in March, five in April, 13 in May, two in June, one each in July and August. Among these, six deaths were classified as unnatural. As per data provided by Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh in response to a question in the recent Parliament session, in 2019-20, eight elephant casualties were due to electrocution, nine died in 2020-21, seven in 2021-22, 15 in 2022-23 and 13 in 2023-24. As per this data, there were no elephant casualties between 2019-24 (till July) due to poaching or poisoning.

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(E- Mail – ID – rdsd.lohardaga@rediffmail.com)

सूचना

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेश प्रमण्डल, लोहरदगा द्वारा आमंत्रित ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या RDD/SD/LOHARDAGA/E-04/2024-25 (Tender ID - 2024_RDSPL_90295_1 and 2024_RDSPL_90302_1) जिसका पी0 आर0 सं0 PR 332235 (Lohardaga) 24-25*D द्वारा प्रकाशित था, के ग्रुप 01 में एकल निविदा तथा ग्रुप 02 में शून्य निविदा प्राप्त होने के कारण वित्त विभाग, झारखण्ड, रॉची के ज्ञापांक 593 / वि0, दिनांक 06.03.2007 के आलोक में रदद् किया जाता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,
PR 333820 (Lohardaga) 24-25 (D) लोहरदगा।

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL,
M.P.C. AUTONOMOUS COLLEGE, TAKHATPUR, BARIPADA

No-A-16 (1-A) : 2786 Date : 27-08-2024

ADMISSION NOTICE FOR 4-YEARS INTEGRATED B.A. B.Ed. / B.Sc. B.Ed. COURSE (ITEP) 2024-25

Offline Applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission in to ITEP B.A. B.Ed. & B.Sc. B.Ed. courses for the Academic Session 2024-25. Application form & Prospectus can be downloaded from the College Website **www.mpcautocollege.org.in**. from **27.08.2024**. The filled in application form along with all necessary documents and a Bank Draft of Rs.300/- drawn in favour of Principal, MPC Autonomous College, Takhatpur, Baripada payable at Baripada are to be submitted to the undersigned by post only (Regd. Post /Speed Post) so as to reach the Office of the Undersigned on or before **10.09.2024 by 05:00 P.M.**

For Details see the College Website : **www.mpcautocollege.org.in**

Sd/-
Principal

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our Client is desirous of purchasing the **Schedule Property** from its present owner **Mr.Ravindranath Damodaram.**

Any person/s having or claiming any manner of right, title, claim lien or interest in the **Schedule Property** may intimate the same in writing to the undersigned along with documentary evidence in support of their claim **within 15 days** from the date of this publication, failing which, our client will be advised to proceed with the conveyance as if no valid claims are subsisting against the schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Vacant BDA Site bearing No.518, Presently bearing **BBMP Khata No.1445/518,** situated at **1st Stage, 4th Block, Hennur Bellary Road, HBR Layout, Bangalore,** Ward No.24, Bangalore, **measuring East to West: 80 Feet and North to South: 50 Feet, totally measuring in all 4000 Square Feet** and bounded on:

East by : Road
West by: Site bearing No.513-B
North by : Site bearing No.517
South by: Site bearing No.518A.

(S.A.H. RAZVI & ARIF PASHA)
2nd Floor, M.M. Complex No. 60, Chick Bazaar Road,Tasker Town, Bangalore-560 051 **M: 9845049766 / 9243132714**
Bangalore Date: 28.08.2024

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Application Notification No. 565/STBA/08/2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications for Engagement of Station Ticket Booking Agents (STBA) at the following Railway stations over Bengaluru Division of South Western Railway for issuing of Unreserved/General Tickets through Unreserved Ticket System (UTS) on commission basis for the period as mentioned against the station:

Sl.	Name of the Station	Station Code	Station Category	Period of Contract
1	Satya Sai Prashanthi Nilayam	SSPN	NSG-4	Upto 21-02-2025
2	Malleshwaram	MWM	NSG-5	3 Years

Date and Time of submission of application : From 10:00 Hrs. to 15:00 Hrs. of 26-09-2024.

For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

PUB/366/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Bengaluru**

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL VISAKHAPATNAM
Ground & 1st Floor, 31-31-21, Sai Baba Street, Narayana Bhawan, Dabagardens, Visakhapatnam-530020.

Case No. OA/488/2019

Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunals (Procedure) Rule, 1993

State Bank of India
VS
Sri Nori Kishore

To
Sri Nori Kishore, S/o. Sri Venkateswarlu, Flat No.103, Block-"C", Confident Atik, Opp. Lafarge Concrete Mix, Sarjapura Road, Somapura, Sarjapura Post, Anakel Taluk, Bangalore - 562125, Karnataka State.

SUMMONS BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

WHEREAS, **OA/488/2019** was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/ Registrar on **01/11/2024.**

WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said Application under Section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of **Rs.34,75,716.57/-** (Application along with copies of documents etc.annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under : -

(i) To show cause within 30 days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

(ii) To disclosed particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;

(iii) You are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

(iv) You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and / or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institution holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Presiding Officer/Registrar on **01-11-2024** at 10:30 A.M. failing the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this 30th July, 2024

Sd/- Signature of the Officer
Authorized to issue summons

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438

Short-Term Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)
(Through KPP-portal only)

BESCOM invites tender against enquiry No: **BESCOM/2024-25/SE0180** dated **26.08.2024** for "**Providing Annual Maintenance Services for four numbers of Juniper firewalls installed at DAS Control Center, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru for a period of one year**".

Bid documents will be available: **29.08.2024**, **16:00** Hours onwards. Last date for Bid submission is **13.09.2024** at **16:00** Hours. Bid documents will be opened on **16.09.2024** at **11:00** Hours.

The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Aspiring bidders need to register on KPP Portal. Bidder can take the assistance of KPP helpdesk: **+91 80 46010000, +91 80 68948777** or e-mail at **support@eprochelpdesk.com**.

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mitra Mobile APP

Sd/-
General Manager, (DAS)
BESCOM

VIJAYANAGARA SRI KRISHNADEVARAYA UNIVERSITY. JnanaSagara Campus, Vinayakanagara, Cantonment, Ballari - 583 105. PHONE: 08392-241011, FAX: 08392- 242806

Registrar (Evaluation)

NO. VSKUB/Exam/Tender/2024-25/CALL-2/1194, Date:26.08.2024

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) (SHORT TERM)
(Through e –procurement only)

Tender is invited from eligible Tenderers for the following works detailed in the table.

Name of the Work: Printing and Supply of Answer Booklets to Exam Section, VSK University, Ballari for the year 2023-24. (as per specimen/specification). **Approx. Value of Work (In Rs.):** 1,52,00,000/-. **EMD (In Rs.):** 2,28,000/-. **Tender Processing Fee (In Rs.):** As per e-procurement Portal. **Period of Completion:** 2 Years

The Tender will be received by e-procurement mode only. The detail notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by login to the website https://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in. **up to** 02.09.2024 **, 5.00 p.m.** The other details can be collected from the under signed.

Sd/- Registrar (Evaluation)
V.S.K. University, Ballari-583105

DIPR/Ballari/386/KSMCA/2024-25

Ministry of Culture Government of India
VISVESVARAYA INDUSTRIAL & TECHNOLOGICAL MUSEUM
(National Council of Science Museums)
Kasturba Road, Bengaluru-560 001

ADVERTISEMENT No.06/2024

Applications are invited within **20.09.2024** from eligible candidates having teaching/research/industry background for engagement as **Junior Mentor at Innovation Hub of District Science Centre, Kalaburagi** on a monthly consolidated remuneration of **Rs. 37,000/- for a period of One Year,** further extendable on mutually agreed terms subject to satisfactory performance. For eligibility criteria and other details, please refer to our website **www.vismuseum.gov.in** and **www.sciencecentrekalaburagi.org.in** The Director, VITM reserves the right to cancel the engagement process at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever.

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
(ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ)
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:08192–251168 e-mail:dudc_dvg@yahoo.co.in

ಸಂ:ಜಿ.ನ.ಕೋ.ದಾ(2)/ಸಿಆರ್/1142/2021–22 ದಿನಾಂಕ:26–08–2024

ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ವಿಶಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಅಮೃತ ನಗರೋತ್ಥಾನ (ಮುನಿಸಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ) ಯೋಜನೆ (ಹಂತ–4) ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಪೌರಾಡಳಿತ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯದಿಂದ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಂತೆ ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ್‌ಗಳಂತೆ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ (Two Covers System) ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳು:– ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಪೌರಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಬಿಸಿ ನೀರು ಪೂರೈಕೆಗೆ ಬೈಲರ್ ಅಳವಡಿಕೆ, ಶೌಚಾಲಯ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ, ಸಮುದಾಯ ಭವನ ಮುಂದುವರೆದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ್: DMA/2023-24/BD/Work_Indent/17675/ Call-3 ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):– 44.00 ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):– 88,000.00 ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:– 10–09–2024 ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:– 12–09–2024 ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:– 17–09–2024 ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಅವಧಿ:– 11 ತಿಂಗಳು

ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶದ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಾಗುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ಅಥವಾ ಯಾವುದೇ ಜಾಹೀರಾತು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/283/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

झारखंड सरकार
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, गुमला।

अल्पकालीन ई– निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना।

ई–निविदा संख्या:- 10/2024-25/RWD/W/EE/GUMLA दिनांक:–27-08-2024

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, गुमला द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र0 सं0	आईडेन्टी फिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि अंक में (लाख)	प्राक्कलित राशि अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि।	टेण्डर कॉल सं0
1	RWD/W/EE/GUMLA/09/2024-25	सिसई बसिया आर0सी0डी0 पथ से करौन्दाजोर भाया लमकी तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं0–5.00 कि0मी0)	489.836	चार करोड़ नवासी लाख तीरासी हजार छः सौ रू0 मात्र।	18 माह	प्रथम
2	RWD/W/EE/GUMLA/10/2024-25	पहामु बाजार टांड से ठुठी तेतर आर0सी0डी0 पथ भाया बामपुर पानीलता तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं0–2.700 कि0मी0)	305.763	तीन करोड़ पाँच लाख छिहत्तर हजार तीन सौ रू0 मात्र।	15 माह	प्रथम
3	RWD/W/EE/GUMLA/11/2024-25	बजार टांड हेसागुटू से कोटारी आर0सी0डी0 पथ भाया कल्हुटोली तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं0–2.500 कि0मी0)	293.647	दो करोड़ तीरानब्बे लाख चौसठ हजार सात सौ रू0 मात्र।	15 माह	प्रथम

2 वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:– 31.08.2024
3 ई– निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:–09.09.2024 अपराहन 05.00 बजे तक।
4 निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:– 10.09.2024 अपराहन 05.05 बजे।
5 निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, गुमला, विकास भवन, गुमला के बगल में, पिन–835207
6 ई–निविदा प्रकोश्ठ का दूरभाश सं0–06524–465040 ।
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

ह0/–
कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग
कार्य प्रमण्डल, गुमला।

PR 333816 (Rural Work Department) 24-25 (D)

झारखण्ड सरकार
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर

ई–अति अल्पकालिन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–अति अल्पकालिन निविदा संख्या:- **09/2024-25/RWD/EE/JSR** दिनांक :- 27.08.2024

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र0 सं0	आईडेन्टीफिकेशनसंख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अंक में	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में) अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1.	RWD/JAMSHEDPUR/22/2024-25	कसकोमगोड़ा चौक से बैद्यनाथडीह, शांतिपुर तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं–1.800 कि0मी0)	1,86,84,600.00	एक करोड़ छियासी लाख चौरासी हजार छः सौ रू0 मात्र	12 माह
2.	RWD/JAMSHEDPUR/23/2024-25	बैद्यनाथडीह, बाघाई नाला से खैरबनी रेलवे फाटक तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं–1.550 कि0मी0)	1,35,29,100.00	एक करोड़ पैंतीस लाख उन्तीस हजार एक सौ रू0 मात्र	9 माह
3.	RWD/JAMSHEDPUR/24/2024-25	बाबनीडीह चौक से निवारण मुर्मू के घर भाया (मकर) किस्कु के घर तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं–1.600 कि0मी0)	1,43,01,900.00	एक करोड़ तिरालीस लाख एक हजार नौ सौ रू0 मात्र	9 माह
4.	RWD/JAMSHEDPUR/25/2024-25	कालापाथर अंबर हांसदा चौक से खड़ीयाकाटा सीमा तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं–1.900 कि0मी0)	2,03,87,700.00	दो करोड़ तीन लाख सत्तासी हजार सात सौ रू0 मात्र	12 माह
5.	RWD/JAMSHEDPUR/26/2024-25	बलियागुड़ी हाट मैदान से नारंगी नाला तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं–1.620 कि0मी0)	2,04,29,900.00	दो करोड़ चार लाख उन्तीस हजार नौ सौ रू0 मात्र	12 माह

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :– 31.08.2024।
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :– 09.09.2024 अपराहन 5.00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि jharkhandtenders.gov.in के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन मोड में स्वीकार की जाएगी।
5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– 10.09.2024 अपराहन 5.00 बजे।
6. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :–कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर, ब्लॉक–करनडीह, थाना–परसुडीह, जमशेदपुर, झारखण्ड, पिन–831002।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0– 0657–2298902।
8. विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है। **कार्यपालक अभियंता,**
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल,
जमशेदपुर

PR 333807 (REO)24-25*D

DIRECTORATE OF MINORITIES
Maulana Azad Bhavan, No.16C, Miller Tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.

No: DOM/DEVP/Infrastructure-Cot/CR-115/2024-25 Date: 27.08.2024

Announcement of Tender

Tender has been invited by the Directorate of Minorities through e-procurement portal in double-envelope mode for Supplier to supply **"Two Tire Cot" to the students of Minority Residential Schools/Colleges in the academic year 2024-25.** Details are given below. Interested bidders should apply through online mode under e-procurement portal.

Sl. No.	Details	Date/Time
1.	Date of Tender Publication	**27.08.2024.**
2.	Tender Amount:	**Rs. 995.00 Lakhs.**
3.	EMD Amount:	**Rs.14,92,500/-**
4.	Pre-bid meeting:	**06.09.2024 at 11:30 a.m.**
5.	Last date and time for submission of tender:	**30.09.2024 by 5:30 p.m.**
6.	Date and time of Technical bid opening:	**03.10.2024 at 11:30 a.m.**
7.	Date and time of Financial bid opening:	**05.10.2024 at 11:30 a.m.**
8.	Place of tender opening and contact address:	Maulana Azad Bhawan, No.16C, Miller tank Bed Road, Vasantnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
9.	Telephone No. to be contacted	**080-22535902/ 080-22535918.**

Other details can be obtained from the website of the Directorate of Minorities **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in** and e-Procurement website at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Director
DIPR/CP/1680/MAA/24-25 **Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru**

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PATRICK Santinear R/at No.32, 2nd CRoss, Munithayappa Layout, Lingarajapuram, Behind Banaswadi Railway Station, Bengaluru - 560084 have changed my name to Joseph Patrick Santineer vide dated 27.08.2024 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, Bengaluru.

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

BUSINESS OFFERS

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF VII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT CHENNAI
O.S.No. 2863 of 2020

S. Anandhavalli & another ... Plaintiffs
Vs.
M.Kathiresan & others ... Defendants

To
D-4. R. Subramanian,
D-5. S. Anuradha, D/o R. Subramanian
D-6. S. Anitha, D/o R. Subramanian
D-7. S. Abirami, D/o R. Subramanian

D-4 to D-7 are residing at No. F-14, 1st Floor, Sugam Residency Saraswathi Nagar, Kanagapura Main Road, Talakattapura, Bangalore- 560062. ...
Defendants 4 to 7

Sir/Madam,

Take notice that the above Suit in O.S. No 2863 of 2020 filed for partition, came up for hearing before the abovesaid Hon'ble Court, it was ordered that notice be served to you through Paper Publication, returnable by 03.09.2024. Pursuant to the above order, this notice is being taken to you through Paper Publication.

Take further notice that, if you fail to appear before the above Hon'ble Court on 03-09-2024 at 10.30 A.M., the above matter will be heard and decided in your absence.

(A. Thirunavukarasu)
COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFFS

ABSTRACT

Correcting rumours can reduce support for vigilantes

A new paper seeks to find an answer to a critical question — if misinformation can lead to vigilante violence, then "can reducing the credibility of rumours via corrections decrease support for vigilante violence?

G. Sampath

Badrinathan, Sumitra, Simon Chauchard & Niloufer Siddiqui (2024). Misinformation and Support for Vigilantism: An Experiment in India and Pakistan, *American Political Science Review* (2024) 1-19.

Vigilante violence against minorities has been growing in recent years, especially in South Asia. It is well documented that such violence is often preceded by misinformation. In India, for instance, allegations of 'love jihad' or false rumours of cow meat transportation have culminated in public lynchings. Yet empirical studies on the link between misinformation and vigilante violence are scarce. This paper seeks to plug this gap by posing a critical question: if misinformation is an essential component of the circumstances leading to vigilante violence, then "can reducing the credibility of rumours via corrections decrease support for vigilante violence?"

MURALI KUMAR. K

The experiment

The study is based on simultaneous in-person experiments in India's Uttar Pradesh and Pakistan's Punjab province. The experiment consisted of making respondents – numbering 1,500 in Pakistan and 1,800 in India – listen "to a series of professionally produced newscasts describing acts of vigilantism modelled on real incidents."

In India, the sample was limited to Hindu respondents since the victims of vigilantism were largely Muslim. In Pakistan, "the large majority of the sample belonged to the majority Sunni sect of Islam". While the 'out-group' (minority) in India was Muslim, in Pakistan, it was non-Muslims. "In both countries," the authors write, "we see that citizens trust their in-group (majority) to a much larger extent than the out-group". This remains an important factor in the power of rumours to incite vigilante violence. For the purpose of this study, rumours are understood as "statements that lack specific standards of evidence" and are a subcategory of misinformation.

In the experiment, respondents were provided three vignette scenarios, each describing a vigilante act. In India, the vignettes detailed vigilante acts in response to three alleged crimes: forced interfaith marriage or 'love jihad', cow meat transportation, and a conspiracy that Muslims were deliberately spreading COVID-19. In Pakistan, the alleged crimes were "sharing blasphemous speech online, burning the Quran, and tearing down religious posters."

The vignettes were delivered to respondents via audio clips which they listened to using headphones. Each respondent listened to all three vignette scenarios consecutively. But each vignette contained "a number of randomly varied attributes that we hypothesised might affect support for vigilantism." These variables included varying the credibility of the rumours via corrections (the 'treatment' or manipulation of the experiment), how state police reacted to the vigilantism, and whether political elites condemned the violence.

Each vignette, delivered like a newscast, started by describing an act of vigilante violence, and followed it up with additional information based on the different variables being tested by the researchers. In the treatment condition, the respondents were provided "corrective information stating that investigative reporting found the rumour to be baseless." For instance, after describing the vigilante violence and the rumour that preceded it – say, that a Muslim man had abducted a Hindu woman – the newscaster would add a segment detailing investigative reporting by different media platforms establishing that "mob violence took place because of false information." In the 'control' group, no such information was provided.

The experiment was also designed to test the impact of two other variables deemed critical for support of vigilantism: state positionality and elite rhetoric. The state positionality attribute was varied at three levels: police investigates the crime/sides with vigilantes, police prosecutes vigilantes/sides with mob, and no information provided about police's reaction to vigilantism. The elite rhetoric attribute had two levels: an elite message (treatment) and no message (control). In India, the elite message used was a real tweet by Prime Minister Narendra Modi telling citizens that "killing people in the name of Gau Bhakti is not acceptable", while in Pakistan it was a message from former Prime Minister Imran Khan condemning vigilante violence over the tearing down of religious posters.

The results

The experiment yielded three major findings. Firstly, the authors found that corrections on average significantly reduce support for vigilantism, even in polarised settings. In India, corrections shifted public opinion by 8%-10% and in Pakistan, by 17%-19%. Second, this reduction in support for vigilantism post-correction occurred "regardless of respondents' prior attitudes towards out-groups" (the minority group at the receiving end of vigilante violence). Third, the behaviour of the state did not systematically shape support for vigilante violence. In neither India nor in Pakistan did respondents decrease their support for vigilante acts "when given information that police authorities investigated victims or arrested vigilantes."

There were also intriguing differences between India and Pakistan with regard to the effect of corrections. For instance, corrections did not alter support for vigilantism "for the most salient type of crime in this context – beef smuggling rumours in India." The authors interpret this as indicating a "limited efficacy of corrections in shifting attitudes more overtly linked to partisanship". Another difference was with regard to the impact of elite messaging – "it reduced support for vigilantism in Pakistan, but it did not move attitudes in India with regard to cow transportation rumours." The authors note that this is a surprising finding as "scholarship on public opinion has repeatedly demonstrated that elite rhetoric is influential in altering opinion and that elites have the capacity to set public discourse and agenda."

Broadly, the paper situates its findings amid the framework developed by the scholarship on vigilantism as well as the literature on ethnic conflict and riots in South Asia. Traditional scholarship sees vigilante violence as a distinct form of collective punishment, perpetrated ostensibly "to maintain law and order" in response to a perceived crime. The role of the state is a key factor in this approach, as a state's explicit or tacit ethnocentric policy could facilitate, and be buttressed by, vigilantism, defined as "extralegal prevention, investigation, or punishment of offenses."

Vigilantism research has tended to group together identity-based forms of vigilantism – which target members of "social out-groups", whether ethnic, racial or religious – with vigilantism that addresses petty crimes and may not necessarily be targeted at specific communities. The authors argue that while these two forms of "extralegal violence have much in common, violence which takes place explicitly on the basis of religious sensibilities, notions of ethnic or racial superiority, or in relation to majoritarian norms is likely to be distinct in both its causes and consequences."

This experiment and its findings, concerned specifically with identity-based vigilantism, point to the criticality of interventions aimed at correcting rumours in real time. "Because rumours are distinct from other forms of misinformation – they tend to 'materialise suddenly' – their correction necessitates distinct strategies," the paper notes.

The role of the state

The study also casts interesting sidelights on the role of state institutions in preventing collective violence, and the relationship between democracy and the rule of law. As the authors note, "our surveys find greater willingness to support vigilantism among our Indian sample and a smaller effect of corrections relative to Pakistan, suggesting that the existence of ostensibly democratic institutions may not have a straightforward relationship to extralegal violence."

Having underscored the centrality of curbing misinformation to combat vigilantism, the paper concludes by flagging the need for further research on the "psychological and systemic mechanisms – such as perceptions of the legitimacy of vigilantism, the role of religious appeals, or the role of agency and status – through which correcting misinformation may affect support for vigilantism."

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Hello, care for an orange?"

"No fruit please. I had enough of fruit last week. Please do me a favour."

"What can I do for you?"

"There are some difficult problems in chemistry. I can't solve them."

"Tough nuts to crack, eh?"

"What?"

"Your problems, they're tough nuts to crack. That is they are difficult to solve."

"They are difficult to solve all right. Real tough nuts to crack."

"Why don't you come this evening? We'll see if we can solve them."

"But this evening will be too late. You see, I have a test this afternoon."

"Then why didn't you come to me yesterday?"

"I went to see a film yesterday."

"Are you nuts? You have a test today and you went and saw a film."

"But I had to see the film. Yesterday was the last day. You should have come too. It was a nice film. All about a blind man who kills people..."

"I am not one of those movie nuts.."

"Movie nuts?"

"Yes. One of the meanings of 'nuts' is someone who is very enthusiastic about some-subject or activity. My father, for example, is a tennis nut"

"And I'm no chemistry nut, I can assure you. So will you please help me?"

"No, I certainly won't"

"Why?"

"Because you were nutty enough to see a film when you should have been studying."

"Nutty? What do you mean nutty?"

"Nutty means someone who is insane or foolish."

"Which one am I? Insane or foolish?"

"Both."

"Oh come on! Help me this time. And I won't do anything nutty like this again."

"Sorry."

"You are being very difficult today."

"There are times when one has to be a tough nut"

"When did you become crazy?"

" 'Tough nut' doesn't mean crazy."

"It doesn't? But I thought 'nut' meant a mad or crazy person."

"Nut means a crazy or eccentric person all right. But a tough nut is someone who is obstinate or difficult to deal with."

"You certainly are being very difficult to deal with now. So, why don't you stop being a tough nut and help me out"

"No."

"Please! I need your help. I'm willing to pay you."

"Really? How much will you pay me?"

"Fifteen rupees."

"Fifteen rupees! That's peanuts."

"Peanuts! It is not peanuts but money I want to give you."

"In informal English, peanuts means a very small amount"

"You mean fifteen rupees is a small amount?"

"Yes. It's peanuts."

"But that's all I have."

"Too bad."

Published in The Hindu on March 9, 1993.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The March on Washington was held on August 28, 1963. Here is a quiz on the movement

Sindhu Nagaraj

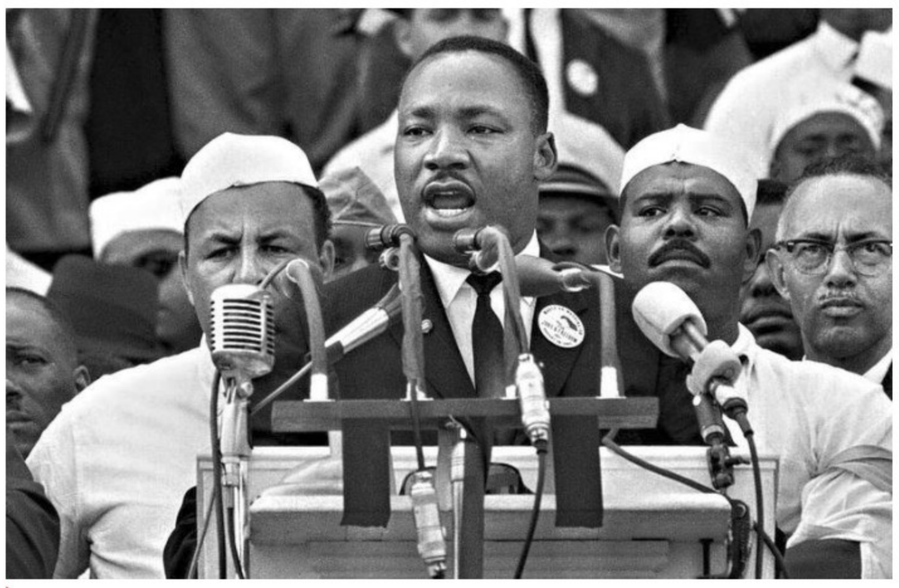
QUESTION 1
What was the purpose of this march?

QUESTION 2
African Americans were legally freed from slavery under which amendment of the U.S. Constitution?

QUESTION 3
This author was prevented from speaking at the March because his comments would be too inflammatory. Name the writer.

QUESTION 4
The march is credited with helping to pass a landmark civil rights and labour law in the United States that outlaws discrimination based on race, colour, religion, sex and national origin. What is it called?

QUESTION 5
Folk singer Joan Baez led a crowd of 3,000 in singing this song during the march. The song is heavily associated with protests, especially with the U.S. civil rights movement. Name the song.



Visual question:
Identify this speaker and name his speech, one of the most famous moments of the civil rights movement and among the most iconic speeches in American history.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Donald Bradman was called 'The Boy from _____'. **Ans: Bowral**

2. Donald Bradman played Test matches against England, India and these countries. **Ans: South Africa and West Indies**

3. Donald Bradman scored these many double centuries. **Ans: 12 (including two triple centuries)**

4. The connection between Ivan Barrow and Wally Hammond to Bradman. **Ans: They are the two Test wickets taken by Bradman**

5. It is well-known that if the Don had got four runs in his final Test innings, his career average would have been a perfect 100. This player denied him the feat. **Ans: England spinner Eric Hollies**

6. This Indian bowler dismissed the Don 'hit-wicket'. **Ans: Lala Amarnath**

7. This cricketer was called the 'Little Bonzer'. **Ans: Sachin Tendulkar**

Visual: Name the two Indian cricketers flanking the Don. **Ans: K.S. Duleepsinhji and Lala Amarnath**

Early Birds: Bharath Viswanathan| Varghese Joseph| Arvind Tillway| Aadish Jain| Rajat Kothari

Word of the day

Exculpate:
pronounce not guilty of criminal charges

Synonyms: discharge, clear, acquit, exonerate

Usage: *I will present evidence that will exculpate my friend.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/exculpatepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈɛkskəlpeɪt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

No benefit from Gruha Lakshmi yet, say transwomen

Officials say while the facility for transwomen to avail of the benefits of Gruha Lakshmi is open, many of them have not been able to do so because of the non-availability of TG cards

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

In July, the Karnataka government announced that the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, under which ₹2,000 is being given to the female head of houses, will be extended to transgender women too. Many transwomen applied on the portal. But this month, most of them did not receive the benefits.

The government had mandated the possession of transgender (TG) card for transwomen to apply for this scheme. "Around 40 of us, who have TG cards applied for the scheme as soon as they announced it. But we have not received any benefits until now. With Shakti, it is easier as we have our Aadhaar cards. When it comes to Gruha Lakshmi, there are some hurdles," said Sudha, a transwoman from Mysuru.

The officials from the Department of Women and Child Development said that while the facility for transgenders to avail the benefits of Gruha Lakshmi is open, many of them have not been able to avail it due to non-availability of TG cards. "According to the latest number, just 3,052 people from Karnataka have their TG cards. We are encouraging all of them to apply to the scheme," a senior official said.

Not just Gruha Lakshmi, but transgender persons say that the Mythri scheme under which they receive a monthly pension has not reached them properly the last few months.

"In this year's budget, the government revised the pension amount from ₹800 to ₹1,200. But we have not received any money at all in the last two months," said Maya S. R. Nayak, State Convenor, North Karnataka, The Alliance for Gender and Sexuality Minorities Social Justice.

A Karnataka One Centre decorated for Gruha Lakshmi scheme registrations at Kanakapura on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Monica, a transwoman from Ramanagara district, also said that it has been four to five months since the transgenders in the district received the pension. "We are also not getting the specified amount. Some months, we have received only ₹600," she said.

Housing confusion

During last month's Assembly session, Woman and Child Empowerment Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar had said that 3,403 individuals from sexual minorities were allotted houses under the Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Devaraj Urs housing schemes.

Transgender activists disagree with the number given by the Minister. It has been more than two years since they announced these housing schemes, but the members of our community have hardly received its benefits. "We have been fighting for housing rights for the past 10 - 15 years," Ms. Nayak said.

Speaking about the harassment faced by the transgender community at the hands of house owners, she said, "If they cannot build houses for us, they can at least give us a plot and we will put up tin sheds and live there. No government has ever supported us when it comes to housing."

Activists say that the construction of houses for some sexual minorities in Mysuru and around Bengaluru is going on, but that is only a small number.

"It was announced in the 2021 - 22 budget that these houses should be allotted on a priority basis under Rajiv Gandhi Housing scheme. While we are the nodal agency, the housing board is responsible for giving them houses. We have prepared the list of beneficiaries in each district after verifying their records. Out of the 3,403 houses which were announced, we have been able to identify 2,900 allottees," said Pushpalatha H., Managing Director, Karnataka State Women's Development Corporation.

She added that the houses are being allotted to those who already have sites. "For those who do not, the gram panchayat or city corporations should allot sites, and then the houses can be constructed."

Suburban rail work: Officials reprimanded for slow pace

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Infrastructure Development Minister M.B. Patil on Tuesday reprimanded officials from L&T, the contractors, for the delay in work on the Chikkabanavara - Baiyyappanahalli (Corridor-2) suburban rail project.

During a progress review meeting of the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP), the Minister expressed his dissatisfaction with the lack of expected progress. "We have promised the public that the first train operation will start by August 2025. However, given the current pace, this seems doubtful," the Minister remarked.

Reviews sought

Mr. Patil pointed out that so far, only 28% of the physical progress and 22% of the financial progress had been achieved. The Minister instructed K-RIDE authorities to review the process on a weekly and monthly basis to ensure timely completion. He also directed officials to expedite the delayed work immediately.

Minimum expenditure

According to the schedule, a minimum of 55 U-girders, 22 piers, and 42 I-girders should be constructed per month. This requires a minimum expenditure of ₹54 crore per month.

However, the current spending is only ₹9 crore, which is far too low, he said, expressing his displeasure.

The Minister noted that only ₹86 crore had been spent so far, whereas it should have reached ₹459 crore.

Warning issued

He cautioned that if the situation does not improve, strict action will be taken against the contractor firm, and any losses due to delays will be recovered from the contractors.

Jayadeva Hospital to function all day

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday announced that the government will provide the necessary staff and funds for the Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research to function 24 hours a day.

While speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony of several new amenities at K.C. General Hospital in Gandhinagar constituency, Mr. Siddaramaiah dialled the director of the institute from the stage and asked him to make all the necessary preparations for the hospital to be functional throughout the day (24 hours).

Advocating for hygiene in government hospitals, the Chief Minister said, "Ministers and politicians, including myself, do not go to government hospitals. We are also at fault here but we continue to provide necessary funding to ensure that the quality and hygiene in government hospitals are on a par with that of private hospitals. It is possible to provide it only if the hospital management performs its duties honestly and transparently."

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah performed 'bhoomi puja' for several new amenities at the K.C. General Hospital in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

He also said the government funds would prove meaningful if the standard of quality and hygiene in all government hospitals were similar to what is found in Jayadeva Hospital.

The government is also planning to open trauma centres near accident zones. "The golden hour is very important to save the lives of those injured (in accidents), and hence, we have planned to open these centres," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah conducted the groundbreaking ceremony for several new amenities, including a mother-child hospital, lecture hall, mortuary, novel kitchen, laundry building and solid medical waste unit on the premises of K.C. General Hospital. During the ceremony, Mr. Siddaramiah also instructed Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao to finish the construction work soon. "I have sanctioned funds for all the requests submitted by the Health Minister. I will only inaugurate the new hospital buildings, too," he said.

Digital media entities now eligible to get govt. advertisements

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Digital media entities, including influencers, will now be eligible to get government advertisements according to the 'Karnataka Digital Advertising Guidelines - 2024' rolled out by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) recently.

The government plans to use digital advertising to take its schemes and policies to the public. The guidelines will be in effect for the next five years or until further notification. The guidelines define digital media entities as "any platform such as web portals, news aggregators, websites, etc., that uses hardware, software and Internet to enable the exchange of information or communication, or delivery of service, goods or commerce."

Video streaming platforms like Google (YouTube) and Meta (Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp, etc.), search engines like Google and Bing, social media platforms, OTT platforms like Netflix and Amazon Prime, Fintech platforms like Google Pay and PhonePe, news aggregators, call centres and others will be eligible.

Eligible influencers have been divided into three categories - nano, micro and macro based on their follower count. The ads given out will be in the form of long and short videos, banners, pop-ups, audio, static images and others.

The guidelines also specify eligibility criteria for digital advertising agencies and digital media entities to be empanelled with the DIPR. For agencies, this includes being legally incorporated in Karnataka or having a fully operational office here, a valid GST registration, contracts with Google, Meta and other digital media and clearance from the entities to run government campaigns on their platforms. The Digital Media Entities should be at least a year old and publishing content continuously for one year without a break among other things.

Don't collect fees from SC-ST students eligible for post-matric scholarship, VTU tells colleges

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the State government's order, Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has instructed all private engineering colleges not to collect any fee from students of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (SC and ST) communities eligible for Post-matric Scholarship Programme during admission. The university has said that the colleges will be paid by the Social Welfare Department later.

The State government instituted the scholarship programme from the academic year 2023-24. Under this programme, scholarships are being sanctioned to SC-ST students pursuing various post-matric courses and whose family income is less than ₹2.5 lakh per annum.

"The head of the concerned college/university shall not compel to pay any fee compulsorily at the time of admission in the case of admission to undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma, polytechnic and other professional courses including medicine, engineering and allied courses in various universities of the state," the order issued by VTU said.

Despite these norms, it has come to light that some private colleges in Bengaluru were forcing students eligible under this scholarship programme also to pay the complete fees for the year during admission itself, prompting the Social Welfare Department to reissue these guidelines. Following this, VTU has issued a circular to this effect. A total of 208 private engineering colleges operate under VTU in the State.

Card for students

Under the scholarship programme, the fees fixed by VTU and Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) for the government quota seats have been sanctioned. But no other fees can be collected from these students, the Social Welfare Department has said.

To enable this, a card will be issued by the State government to the eligible students, so that they can get admission in all educational institutes without paying any tuition fees and other compulsory fees.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 28	
RISE 06:08	SET 18:33
RISE 00:52	SET 14:20
THURSDAY, AUG. 29	
RISE 06:08	SET 18:32
RISE 01:50	SET 15:16
FRIDAY, AUG. 30	
RISE 06:08	SET 18:31
RISE 02:47	SET 16:06

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	24
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	28	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Day will be slight warm with cloudy sky. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Floating solar installations on lakes opposed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Minor Irrigation, Science and Technology, N.S. Boseraju on Tuesday directed officials to initiate the preparation of a pre-feasibility report for the implementation of floating solar installations across 40 lakes managed by the Minor Irrigation Department. However, environmentalists oppose the project.

"These installations will affect the ecosystem of the lakes enormously, including birds that live around such lakes. Most lakes under the Department are usually filled with sewage. In such cases, sunlight is essential to kill the pathogens in the water, which would otherwise get integrated into the groundwater and cause diseases," said V. Ramprasad, co-founder, Friends of Lakes.

INDIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
P.B. 8005, C.V.Raman Avenue, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru - 560 080.

Applications from eligible candidates are invited for the appointment to various posts on contract basis.

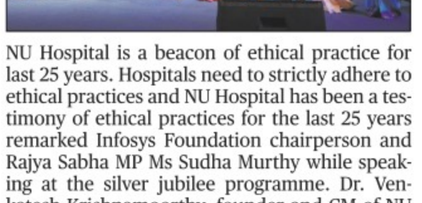
1. **Copy Editors** - 02 posts
2. **Editorial Assistant** - 01 post
3. **Coordinator Official Language Programme (Hindi)** - 01 post
4. **Secretarial Assistant** - 01 post

The last date for receipt of applications online is **17th September 2024.**
Full details are available on the Academy website
https://www.ias.ac.in/About_IASc/Positions_Available/

Place: **Bengaluru**
Date: **26/08/2024**
Executive Secretary

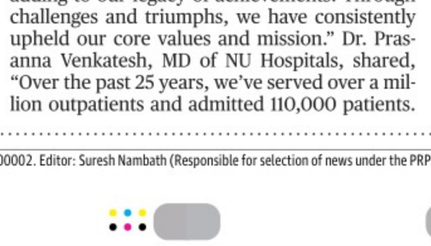
BUSINESS CONNECT
A Business Initiative

Malabar Gold & Diamonds Wins India Gold Conference Responsible Jewellery House Award



Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the world's largest jewellery groups, has been honored with the prestigious India Gold Conference (IGC) Responsible Jewellery House Award for 2023-24. This accolade, one of the most esteemed in the Indian jewellery sector, recognizes Malabar Gold & Diamonds for its unwavering commitment to ethical sourcing and sustainability. The award acknowledges Malabar Gold & Diamonds' dedication to procuring responsibly mined gold and diamonds from legitimate sources, ensuring that every piece of jewellery is crafted with the highest standards of purity and integrity. On behalf of Malabar Gold & Diamonds, O. Asher, Managing Director of India Operations, received the award from Dr. Sundaravalli Narayanswamy, Chairperson of the India Gold Policy Centre, at a function held at the Hilton Manyata Business Park, Bengaluru. Also in attendance were Malabar Gold LLC Business Development Head Sitaraman Varadarajan, Malabar Gold & Diamonds Bullion Head Dileep Narayanan, Finmet PTE Ltd Director Sunil Kashyap, Rand Refinery CEO Praveen Baijnath, and Malabar Gold & Diamonds Karnataka Regional Head Filsor Babu.

Silver jubilee programme of NU Trust and NU Hospitals in Bengaluru



NU Hospital is a beacon of ethical practice for last 25 years. Hospitals need to strictly adhere to ethical practices and NU Hospital has been a testimony of ethical practices for the last 25 years remarked Infosys Foundation chairperson and Rajya Sabha MP Ms Sudha Murthy while speaking at the silver jubilee programme. Dr. Venkatesh Krishnamoorthy, founder and CM of NU Hospitals, remarked, "In the past 25 years, NU Hospitals has transformed from its modest origins in Padmanabhanagar into a symbol of success and excellence in nephrology, urology, and reproductive medicine. Our journey has been characterized by numerous milestones, each adding to our legacy of achievements. Through challenges and triumphs, we have consistently upheld our core values and mission." Dr. Prasanna Venkatesh, MD of NU Hospitals, shared, "Over the past 25 years, we've served over a million outpatients and admitted 110,000 patients. We've conducted three-quarters of a million dialysis treatments, treated 60,000 pediatric nephrology and urology patients, performed 55,000 surgeries, completed 700 kidney transplants, and executed 110 robotic surgeries. Our nephrology and urology programs have trained 42 doctors, either graduating or currently studying with us. Nearly 10,000 people have been part of Team NU over these years. While we are now a team of over 600, many of our alumni are spread across the globe, upholding the NU legacy. In our fertility department, we've achieved the remarkable milestone of 1,000 babies in just about seven years. Additionally, we've contributed to over 100 high-impact journals in nephrology and urology."

Cine actor Aradhana launches The Jewellery Show at a glittering function in The Bangalore Palace

The three-day Jewellery Show at Bangalore Palace was launched by well - known cine actor Aradhana at a glittering function on Friday. Cine actor Aradhana is the Brand Ambassador for the Jewellery Show. The glittering Jewellery show was organised by B. N. Jagadish and Hemalatha Jagadish of Golden Creepers Organisation. The show will go on for next three days. (Till August 25). As many as 100 top Jewellers have taken part in this jewellery show. In her speech after inaugurating the Jewellery Show, Aradhana said this Jewellery show was the most prestigious one and it has wide range as well large varieties of gold and diamond jewellery. Cine actor Malashree, in her speech, said, "I have been a great admirer as well as lover of jewellery. I am pleasantly surprised by the wide range of variety jewellery in this show. There are different variety of jewellery from more than 90 brands. The gold jewellery in this show has BIS Halmark while Diamond jewellery has International GIA/IGI tag. The gold and Diamond jewellery are an available to the taste and price of the people. Bangalore's Ananya Jewels, Aabhushan, Arjun Vara, Gajraj, M. P. Swarna Mahal, Nikar, Nirmal Jewels, Panch Kesari Badera, PMJ, Raj Diamonds, Simha Jewels, Sri Ganesh Diamonds, Varasri, Kalasa, Sri Krishna Diamonds, B. N. R. Gold Davanam, Sunrise Abharan, Sagar Jewels; N. S. Jewels, Srishti, Amrapali, Mahendra Diamonds, M. R. K. Jeeva, Vivant, Bloby Kirtilal, Vinyasa, Sankesh Surana, Tri Diya, Wonder Diamonds Kohira, Eval Jewels, Roopam Silver, Sanchees, Kinashe, Twail Aura; Madan Gems, Tara Handicrafts and others have put up their stalls. During the inaugural function of The Jewellery Show, well-known industrialists Lakshmi Govindaraju, Pallavi C. T. Ravi, fashion designer Arpitha Ranadeep were present on the occasion.

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Premium liquor rates drop, but new pricing may take a week to kick in

Hospitality industry has been urging for rationalisation of rates to bring the prices on a par with that of neighbouring States

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

While rates of premium liquor in Karnataka were expected to come down by around 20% from Tuesday, the policy change might take about a week to kick in, with the new rate cards still to be announced. Though the new rationalised slabs for liquor came into force from Tuesday, wine merchants said that new rate card had not been announced and there had been no supply of liquor under the new rate regime yet.

The revision of rate of liquor follows rationalisation of slabs, a long pending demand, by the State government that is expected to not only bring down the cost of some popular brands, but is also expected to increase excise revenue to the government. The government had notified August 27 as the date on which new price would come into force when it notified the changes or Excise Act on August 23. Under the new regime, the rate of liquor in Karnataka would be on a par or very close to the rates in neighbouring States, government sources said.

The revision of liquor price is expected to increase excise revenue to the government. FILE PHOTO

"The supply of premium liquor in the State has been erratic since the past one-and-a-half months as anticipating the price revision the manufacturers had reduced the supply. On Tuesday, we expected new rates to kick in following the notification. But it is yet to happen," said P. Govindraj Hegde, general secretary of Federation of Wine Merchants Association, Karnataka. Lokesh K.T., president of Bengaluru Wine Merchants Association, also said that they were awaiting the new rates and were unable to purchase fresh stocks on Tuesday.

In about a week

Meanwhile, Finance Secretary (Expenditure) P.C. Jaffer said: "The new rates involve the process of distilleries deciding on the price and getting it approved. Since rate cards for large number of items have to be approved, it will take about a week to stabilise."

The rates have been revised following changes to the Karnataka Excise (Excise Duties and Fees) Rules and are applicable to Brandy, Whiskey, Gin, Rum, and such other liquors and not for Beer, Wine, Toddy and Fenny. The rationalisation of liquor had been announced by the government in the 2024-2025 Budget as the hospitality industry had been urging for rationalisation of rates.

Impact on revenue

The government sources said: "We are set to suffer losses due to reduction in the rate revision in the initial months but we are expecting the revenue to pick up after consumption of premium liquor increases. A similar trend had been witnessed in Maharashtra after the rate rationalisation." Karnataka has set a target of ₹38,525 crore in excise revenue for 2024-2025.

Sources also acknowledged that the premium liquor remained short in supply for the past couple of months as anticipating rate reduction distillers went slow on production and consumers also postponed purchases of expensive liquor.

Slabs proposed

While a committee set up to study had recommended new slabs, bringing down the number of slabs from 18 to 16, the rate revision was hanging in balance due to disagreement of rates between the distillers and government.

The government wanted the distilleries to pass on the benefit of the rationalisation to the consumers while the distilleries were holding on to downward reduction of the declared price/supply of liquor.

Under the rationalisation, the government had asked distillers to keep the declared price less than or equal to declared price offered by the manufacturer to other States.

Sources said that the government did not agree to the distillers' demand for changes in slabs and eventually notified the new slabs.

Congress to hold Raj Bhavan chalo on August 31

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his Deputy D.K. Shivakumar, who is also the KPCC chief, will lead a Congress party march to Raj Bhavan on August 31 to demand sanction of prosecution of Union Industries Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy in a mining lease case and other BJP leaders.

The Congress has decided to counter the BJP's week-long padayatra, seeking resignation of the Chief Minister in the alleged MUDA scam, from Bengaluru to Mysuru in the first week of August. The Congress move is aimed to bring pressure on Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot after he granted prosecution of the Chief Minister as sought by three social activists in the allotment of 14 sites to Chief Minister's wife Parvathi in Mysuru.

"The march will start from Gandhi statue near the Vidhana Soudha and reach the Raj Bhavan. The Chief Minister, Ministers, MLAs, MLCs, and MPs will be part of the rally. We will submit an appeal to the Governor at the end of the rally," said Mr. Shivakumar.

BJP Central leadership begins consultations on byelections

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP high command has begun consultations with State leaders on the forthcoming byelections to three Assembly seats in Karnataka and the future course of action for the coalition partners after their Mysuru chalo padayatra on alleged irregularities in allotment of sites to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife by Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

Various other issues, including the political fallout of the padayatra and ways of strengthening the party organisation and the membership drive, are believed to be on the agenda for discussion.

Meeting with high command

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra met national president J.P. Nadda in Delhi on Monday as part of the consultations, while Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok will visit Delhi on Wednesday for the consultation process. Mr. Ashok is expected to camp in Delhi for a few days so that he can meet more leaders, including some Central Ministers.

According to sources, the immediate priority for the party is the selection of candidates for byelections to the Assembly and the next course of action after padayatra.

Though the byelections are being held for three Assembly seats, the Channapatna Assembly seat has assumed significance in the wake of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar taking it as a prestige battle. As per the present indications, the BJP is likely to leave this seat for the JD(S) as its leader and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy held this seat earlier before quitting it following his election to the Parliament.

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra

But what has turned out to be tricky is the keen interest shown by BJP leader C.P. Yogeshwar, who represented this seat earlier to enter the poll fray. The party high command is likely to discuss about plans to ensure that Mr. Yogeshwar's interests are protected even though the seat is given to the JD(S), sources said.

On national-level protest

According to a BJP State leader, the high command is also expected to advise the State leadership on whether the BJP-JD(S) legislators should meet President Droupadi Murmu and submit a memorandum to her against alleged irregularities in MUDA as part of continuation of its Mysuru chalo padayatra campaign or should they stage a dharna in Delhi.

Though the issue of several disgruntled leaders lashing out at veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa and his son Mr. Vijayendra has been embarrassing the party, it remains to be seen whether the party high command would intervene at this moment when the focus is on building pressure on the Congress government.

Meanwhile, after meeting the party Central leaders in Delhi, Mr. Vijayendra said the "countdown had begun for Mr. Siddaramaiah to step down as Chief Minister". He sought to advise Mr. Siddaramaiah to quit on his own in a dignified manner.

Govt. can recover from officials relief paid for crop loss as their fault forced payment from exchequer: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has said that the State government can recover from the officials concerned the loss caused to the State exchequer for making good payment of deficit compensation paid to the farmers for crop loss through the insurance firm under the national crop insurance scheme.

The court also said that the insurance company cannot be held liable for the deficit payment of compensation amount when the officials of the government did not submit proper amount of crop loss as as per terms and condition of the scheme.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Krishna S. Dixit and Justice Vijaykumar A. Patil passed the order while modifying a judgment of a single judge, who in May 2023 had allowed the petitions filed in 2016 by several farmers seeking directions for fresh assessment of the crop loss of 2014 and payment of compensation under the scheme based on fresh assessment.

Failed to access

The single judge had found that the State government had failed to assess the loss by constituting a technical committee to assess the term-sheets submitted by the insurance company to consider the insured farmers claims as per the mandate of the scheme, and this error lead to wrong assessment and resulted in no payment of insured amount for crop loss to farmers in Navalgund and Hubballi taluks.

While directing the State government to set up a panel for recalculation of crop loss of 2014 in the two taluks by redrawing the term-sheets, the single judge had directed Agricultural Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) to pay the compensation after fresh assessment. However, AIC had challenged the single judge's direction to it for paying the amount.

Without interfering with the single judge's direction for fresh calculation of loss and payment of compensation amount, the Bench said that "the party at fault, namely the State government has *parens patriae* obligation to compensate the farmers. The officials who failed to take due care in framing the term-sheets, are at fault and therefore, the loss caused by their negligence/recklessness should be made good by them only."

Culpable

The Bench said that the single judge was "right in telling that the State government has abdicated its duty to frame the term-sheets on the basis of data that was made available on record. Blindfoldedly, the functionaries of the State government accepted the draft term-sheets submitted by the insurers... This conduct attributable to the State's functionaries is culpable, to say the least."

Noticing that the government had already paid compensation to farmers, the Bench said this resulted in loss to the State exchequer. "Since the government is made to pay what the insurer could have been made to reimburse, had the term-sheets been prepared properly, the officials cannot be absolved from their tortious liability," the Bench said while pointing out that no law was brought to its notice that insurer has to pay the loss for the fault of one of the stakeholders, the State government.

Protest against Governor

Activists belonging to organisations under AHINDA and Karnataka State Backward Classes Forum protesting against Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot for permitting prosecution of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the MUDA scam, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. MURALI KUMAR K.

Chalavadi Narayanaswamy petitions Gehlot seeking dismissal of Priyank

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition in the Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy on Tuesday petitioned Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot seeking dismissal of RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge in connection with allotment of land at aerospace park in Bengaluru to a trust owned by his family.

Mr. Narayanaswamy accused the Kharge family of snatching away land from deserving Dalits, using political influence. Ministers M.B. Patil and Mr. Priyank had clarified that the land had been allotted as per norms without compromising on qualifications.

CM shares State's economic, welfare goals with NITI Aayog

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday emphasised the economic, social welfare, and sustainable development goals of the State in a meeting with NITI Aayog vice-chairperson Suman Bery.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Siddaramaiah stated that Karnataka has been actively working towards a vision to foster inclusive growth, enhance governance, and address the unique challenges that the region faces.

"Although our work aligns with the objectives outlined by NITI Aayog and the Centre, we believe we are going several steps ahead in promoting the inclusion of the bottom 60% of the population in terms of income in our development agenda," he said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah further highlighted the work his government has done in various sectors.

In the technology sector, he said the government is working towards sustainable development by focusing on the State's unique resources.

"In line with our vision for equitable growth, we have launched a very ambitious inclusion agenda by providing direct income support to over 12 million families through direct benefit transfers," he said.

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only))

Chief Engineer(Ele)., O&M Zone, BESCOM, Chitradurga invites tender for the following House Keeping Services coming under jurisdiction of **Chitradurga Zone** through KPP Portal (Two cover system).

Name of the work : Providing Mechanized House Keeping Services and other allied Services to BESCOM Circle Office Complex at **Tumkur.** (**Bid Enq.no: CEE/CTAZ/EE(C)/2024-25/HK/01).** Amount put to tender (Approx.) : **Rs. 23,96,000/-** Earnest Money Deposit : **Rs. 59,900/-**

The prospective bidders interested to participate are advised to register their user ID under website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Log-in to e-procurement **on or after 30.08.2024.**

For Electricity Related Complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM MITHRA Mobile App.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele)., O & M Zone, BESCOM, Chitradurga.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our Client is desirous of purchasing the **Schedule Property** from its present owner **Mrs. SAEQA NAAZ.**
Any person/s having or claiming any manner of right, title, claim, line or interest n the **Schedule Property** may intimate the same in writing to the undersigned along with documentary evidence in support of their claim **within 15 days** from the date of this publication, failing which, our client will be advised to proceed with the conveyance as if no valid claims are subsisting against the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Vacant BDA Site bearing No.1318, Presently bearing **BBMP No.284/2051/1318,** situated at **1st Stage, 5th Block, Hennur Bellary Road, HBR Layout, Bangalore,** Ward No.24, **Bangalore, measuring East to West: 40 Feet and North to South:30 Feet, totally measuring in all 1200 Square Feet and bounded on:**

East by : Road | **West by : Site bearing No.1329**
North by : Site bearing No 1319 | **South by : Site bearing No.1317**

(S.A.H. RAZVI & ARIF PASHA)
2nd Floor, M.M. Complex No. 60, Chick Bazaar Road,Tasker Town, Bangalore-560 051 **M: 9845049766 / 9243132714**
Bangalore Date: 28.08.2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, M/s PARVA BALAJI PROJECTS, a Registered Partnership having its Office at 75/1, Novelty House, Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park West, Bangalore - 560020; **GSTIN. 29AAVFP4189N1ZZ**; **PAN: AAVFP4189N;** represented by its Managing Partners, Mr. Akash.B.S, Mrs. Nanda.B.S, Mr. Ramapriya is the absolute owner of the property described in the Schedule hereunder.

It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client has negotiated and decided to purchase the Schedule Property from the above said owners. All persons having any claims against to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, Joint Development Agreement, G.P.A, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office **within 15 days from the date of publication hereof**, failing which our client shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Undeveloped Residentially Converted Property bearing Sy No.33/1 (Old Sy.No:33) with an extent of 1 Acre 20 Guntas and 1 guntas of Kharab land totally measuring 1 Acre 21 Guntas, duly converted from Agricultural purpose to Non-agricultural residential purpose Memorandum bearing No: vide Official ALN/SR (DEV)/176/2004-05 dated 23.02.2005 issued by the Assistant Commissioner, Doddaballapur, Bangalore Rural District, bounded on **East by:** Main Road; **West by:** Survey No.48 and 49 ; **North by:** Remaining portion of same Sy.No.33/1 belongs to Madurappa; **South by:** Survey No.33/1, 33/2 and Survey No.34, situated at Mudiganahalli Village, Karahalli Grama Panchayath, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

Dated this 28th day of August 2024 at Bangalore

M/S. LEGAL NEXUS
ADVOCATES & CONSULTANTS
No. 428, First Floor, 25th Cross, 24th Main Sector 2, HSR Layout, Bangalore – 560 102
Phone: 080-65555914
Mobile: 9945688974; 9164150690

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No: BMICAPA/Vinyasa-02/12/2023-24/782 Date: 26.08.2024

PUBLICATION
(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Smt. Veena Joshi W/o Anantha Joshi and Sri. Vishal Anantha Joshi S/o A.K.Joshi have applied to this Authority seeking to rectify the Cartographical error of the proposed 18.28m Master plan road which is passing, through middle part of the Sy.No.15/2 extent of 00A-10G of Kurubarakarenahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk. But the said road is passing on the eastern side of the Sy.No:15/2 of Kurubarakarenahalli Village as per Kurubarakarenahalli Village map and ground realities. Applicant also seeking the Change of land use of the proposed 18.29m road that is in the **"Traffic and Transportation"** zone to **"Residential"** zone under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961.

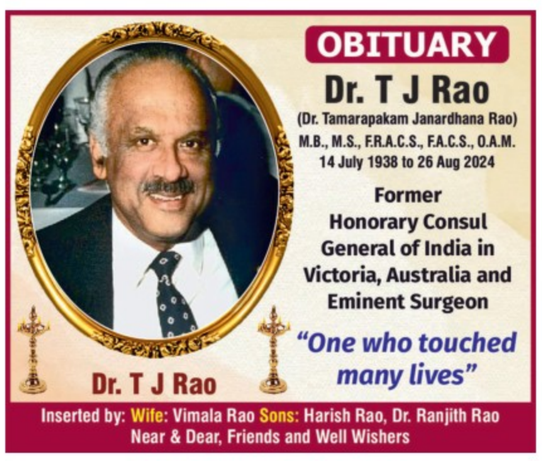
18.29m road area 0Acre-02½ Gunts which is shown in the master plan has to be shifted to existing road due to Cartographical error and the area of the proposed master plan 18.29m road area seeking change of land use from proposed 18.29m road (Traffic and Transportation) to Residential purpose. Objections if any are invited from the public and any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bangalore in writing with supporting documents and reasons within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/1703/Span/2024-25

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH


OBITUARY
Dr. T J Rao
(Dr. Tamarapakam Janardhana Rao)
M.B., M.S., F.R.A.C.S., F.A.C.S., O.A.M.
14 July 1938 to 26 Aug 2024
Former Honorary Consul General of India in Victoria, Australia and Eminent Surgeon
"One who touched many lives"
Dr. T J Rao
Inserted by: Wife: Vimala Rao Sons: Harish Rao, Dr. Ranjith Rao
Near & Dear, Friends and Well Wishers

‘Bengaluru is increasingly more accepting of varied food cultures’

Kalyan Nagar, a relatively new neighbourhood, is home to not only people from the Northeast, but also Nepal, Nigeria and Bhutan, says Prithiraj Borah, who studies food culture and identity

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

Prithiraj Borah remembers experiencing food-based discrimination firsthand in the summer of 2018 while working on his Ph.D. Borah, who was studying at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay back then, had travelled to Delhi for research and was invited to the home of some friends who lived in Munirka, South Delhi, near the Jawaharlal Nehru University campus.

“We were making something with *akhuni* (a fermented soybean product commonly used in Naga cuisine) when a neighbour knocked at the door and said that you cannot cook this here,” says the Vellore-based researcher and scholar.

It got him thinking about how people of “mainstream” India often had prejudices against food consumption, particularly from the Northeast, leading him to start reading and reflecting on the issue. But then the pressing demands of his Ph.D. took over, and he could not take the idea further, he says. Then, in February 2023, he moved to Vellore, Tamil Nadu, to teach at the Department of Social Sciences and Languages at the Vellore Institute of Technology. Since he had a friend in Bengaluru, 200-odd-km away, he decided to visit the city two months after shifting to Vellore.

That was when he first encountered Kalyan Nagar, where his friend was staying, and discovered the many shops and restaurants selling food catering specifically to the Northeastern community. “Kalyan Nagar is a relatively new neighbourhood, and many migrants stay here,” says Borah, pointing out that the area is home to not only people from the Northeast but also Nepal, Nigeria and Bhutan. “Some of them are working as chowkidars or delivering food for Zomato, Swiggy or Dunzo. There are also people working in corporations, teaching at the university, even students,” he says. The neighbourhood’s incredible diversity, which, in turn, had led to the mushrooming of businesses catering to this massive influx of people from the Seven Sisters, got him thinking again about food and identity. “I wanted to look at this aspect of food and belonging in Kalyan Nagar,” he says.

Prithiraj Borah .

Food and identity

In August last year, Borah applied to the India Foundation for the Arts (IFA) Project 560, an initiative that supports projects that engage with Bengaluru in different ways. He submitted his proposal to “examine notions of ‘belongingness’ and ‘neighbourhood’ through an understanding of food habits of the ‘indigenous’ and ‘tribal’ communities from the northeast in Kalyan Nagar,” as the IFA website puts it, and was eventually selected.

According to the IFA website, the project fits the mandate of the Project 560 programme since it interrogates ideas around migration, labour, identity and belongingness in the microcosm of a neighbourhood, thereby enabling a layered understanding of the city. “Food becomes an important reason for people from various communities across the northeast to come together and feel a sense of camaraderie and belonging while they stay in Bangalore, far away from their homes,” it states.

Borah began his fieldwork in February this year, travelling to Bengaluru from Vellore every weekend to explore the food culture of Kalyan Nagar. As someone with a sociology background, he took an ethnographic approach towards the project, something he has been doing since his master’s, which he completed at IIT Guwahati. He began identifying and visiting shops run for and by the northeastern community that supplied food and ingredients specific to the community’s culture.

He adds, however, that he was mindful of the many differences between the various tribes who inhabit the northeastern part of India. “As I wrote in my proposal, I did not want to homogenise any culture, identity or religion,” he says. “There is no single northeast culture and much food diversity.”

Northeastern food trail in Kalyan Nagar

Bhut jolokia chili pepper and dried fish. PRITHIRAJ BORAH

A map of Kalyan Nagar is splayed across a soft board in Bangalore’s Creative Space, an art and performance venue located in Kalyan Nagar’s HRBR Layout. Several photographs depicting the signboards of these various shops, such as Victoria’s Kitchen, North East Shop and Seven Sisters, are tacked onto this map, while long lines of other photographs, offering viewers a glimpse of these stores’ offerings, cascade over the mirrored walls of the space. In another corner of the room are a couple of stores selling goods from the Northeast: packaged snacks, dried fish, coffee and more.

We are at *Food, Belongingness and Neighbourhood*, a photo exhibition capturing narratives around northeast food in Kalyan Nagar, one of the key outcomes of this project. He says some of the other outcomes are likely to become part of a short video documenting northeast food stalls in that neighbourhood, a few oped articles about the experience, and a final report about this project.

Borah, who is not a trained photographer, taught himself to handle a camera specifically for the project, spending hours lingering around the stores trying to document them visually. At first, he visited these shops – buying various items and striking conversations with the people who ran them. “I would click random pictures of them cooking, showing only their hands and feet, avoiding their face,” he says. “Slowly, I built a rapport with them,” he says.

Once the people Borah was interviewing became comfortable with him, they began allowing him to roam around their kitchen to take photographs and gave him more detailed interviews; one even invited me to her church one day, he says. These spaces often became a place for conversation, whether about discussing personal problems or exchanging opinions on history, politics or philosophy.

Insights and observations

Borah, an Assamese, also talks about being made fun of by the people he interviewed. “People often don’t like Assam because it is a caste-Hindu society that often discriminates against tribal people,” he says, recalling how when he went to buy Singju (a spicy Northeastern snack with Manipuri origins), people would say, “Oh, you Assamese people eat Singju too,” he says.

As both an insider and an outsider to the larger northeast community, he approached it as such, questioning the fixed binaries between the two while doing his ethnographic research. “This insider-outsider debate always exists in ethnography,” he says. While his caste and community affiliations did make him an outsider, things evolved over the course of his research, he says. “Maybe I was different from what they were expecting,” he believes. “I am not going to say that I became an insider, but I managed to work as both,” says Borah, who attempted to question the fixed binaries of ‘insider’ and ‘outsider’ through this project.

He shares some of the other insights he gleaned from his ethnographic research. For instance, he noticed that the Tangkhul Naga community was the most dominant community here, much like in Mumbai or Delhi.

‘They have a stronghold in any city,” he believes. Another thing he observed was that women ran the majority of these shops. Since many of these tribes were matriarchal or matrilineal, women of the northeast were often more autonomous and independent, he says. And yet, “it is a two-sided coin, though, since it also means the burden on them increases.” From his conversations with proprietors, Borah also discovered that running a business in Bengaluru is challenging since the northeast is not so well connected to this city. Unlike in Delhi, where there are direct flights from Dimapur, Kohima or Imphal, people often need to take a connecting flight to get to Bengaluru, he says. “The airport is also so far away. You need to struggle so much to get those foods,” he says.

On the positive side, however, he believes Bengaluru, unlike Delhi, is more accepting of varied food cultures. “Even if you are cooking pork, dry fish or bamboo shoots, people will not come and disturb you,” he says. “In fact, when I was doing my fieldwork, I even noticed many Kannada-speaking people coming and eating at these restaurants, excited to taste the food there.”

Decoding the success of ‘Bheema’: How Kannada star Duniya Vijay is revelling in his new actor-director role

The film, which talks about the dangerous consequences of substance abuse by youth, is set in the slums of Bengaluru

Vivek M.V.

Duniya Vijay has beaten the sophomore slump with *Bheema*. By repeating the hit formula of his directorial debut *Salaga*, and unabashedly catering to his target audience, Vijay has resurrected his two-decade-long career with his new actor-director role.

Bheema, just like *Salaga*, is a crime drama. The film, which talks about the dangerous consequences of youth substance abuse, is set in the slums of Bengaluru. Unlike a run-of-the-mill commercial outing that shows people, especially men, from poverty-stricken areas as generic villains, *Bheema* features some very distinct characters from such neighbourhoods.

Working with 60 new actors, Vijay builds a world that sharply reflects the lifestyle of people from such localities. “When you set a film in a particular environment, it’s very important to depict the realities that exist there,” says Vijay. Young film-goers, especially those from underprivileged backgrounds and lower middle class, are Vijay’s biggest fans. The actor became a star after *Duniya*, the 2007 blockbuster, in which he played a labourer in a stone quarry who struggled to build a tombstone for his mother’s grave. Perhaps, since then, the actor’s portrayals of a marginalised man’s fight for justice have earned him a young fan base who relate to the adversities faced by his characters.

A still from ‘Bheema’. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Filmmaker Suri, who launched Vijay as a star with *Duniya*, takes a dialogue from the film as an example to explain Vijay’s journey in the film industry. “There is a line in the film that goes, ‘Just because someone is dark and poor, he or she isn’t a thief or a corrupt person‘. Vijay wants to tell his fans that in real life, a hero can be one among them,” says Suri.

In the lead-up to his two directorials, Vijay grabbed the attention of his fans through Charan Raj’s highly irresistible and funky songs, and even worked with singers from the Siddi community and Jenu Kurubas; his experiments paid off.

This association with the marginalised community, combined with Vijay’s vocal support for Ambedkarism, has caught the attention of industry insiders and fans. “When you talk about Ambedkar, people associate him with one community. However, Ambedkar, for me, is someone who advocates for equality irrespective of any group. I will continue to idolise Ambedkar. If you see in *Bheema*, I don’t show the plight of the poor. Even children from rich families get affected by drug addiction in the film,” he says.

Several slum quarters in Bengaluru house people from the Tamil-speaking population, who identify themselves as “Tamil-speaking Kannadigas.” Vijay hasn’t failed to address this crowd in both *Salaga and Bheema*.

In fact, in *Bheema*, Vijay gets introduced in a funeral song (‘Don’t Worry Baby Chinamma’), sung by Tamil singer ‘Gana’ Muthu. Gaana, born in the narrow lanes of north Chennai, is a genre of music that offers freedom from poverty for the subaltern. Funeral singers took the genre to Tamil film music. In the film, the death of a prominent character is observed through song and dance, even as the protagonist is seen drinking. The entire procession with these activities is a custom witnessed in these neighbourhoods. It’s their way of paying respect to the dead. Even in *Salaga*, Tamil folk singer Anthony Daasan sang the funeral song ‘Suri Anna.’

Successful, but not perfect films

However, even though Vijay’s films convey a message, they falter in the representation of issues prevailing in society. *Bheema* attempts to draw a picture of the harmful effects of violence, drugs, and drinking on youngsters. But while doing so, the film’s focus is more on the detrimental acts than on their consequences, so much so that some scenes border on glorification.

In contrast, Suri’s films, such as *Jackie* (2010) and *Kadipuddi* (2013), *sees* the protagonist, despite having some typical commercial cinema hero traits, being vulnerable and fit perfectly inside the milieu he came from.

“My style of representing a society comes from my learnings and mentors. I have worked with Jayanth Kaikini and Surendranath, and they have shaped my thinking.,” Suri says.

Vijay also defends his ideas in *Bheema*. “If you notice, a young boy blames the hero for smoking and drinking and dares him to lead by example. That’s a moment of realisation for the hero, leading him to quit his addictions. At the same time, some of my choices are driven by the demands of commercial cinema. A ‘mass’ crime thriller is like serving a dish to so many people. I need to please them all,” he reasons.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 28, 1974

Exchanges in Karnataka Council Over Bangalore Students Panel Poll

Bangalore, Aug. 27: The alleged political overtones to the Bangalore University Student Council elections, tending to defile the academic atmosphere, were spotlighted in the Karnataka Legislative Council to-day in a day-long heated debate marked by clashes between the Opposition and the Chief Minister on the one side and the Opposition and the acting Chairman on the other.

The Chief Minister Mr. Devaraj Urs, refuted the allegations linking the Indira Brigade with “violence and goondaism: and wondered whether it was not an attempt at discrediting the Government by accusing it of inaction and of being a silent spectator.”

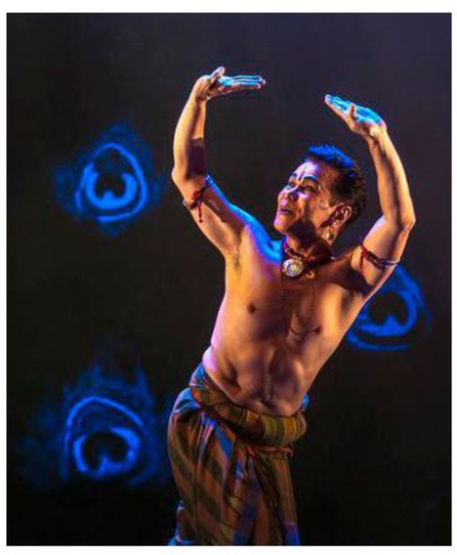
Probe into Death in Police Station Assured

Bangalore, Aug. 27: The Public Works Minister, Mr. H.M. Channabasappa, told the Karnataka Assembly to-day that the Government was prepared to order an enquiry by a senior officer into the death of a person in the police station in Chintamani in Kolar district on August 25.

The Minister’s assurance came when the Opposition members pressed for an impartial enquiry into the incident. The members alleged that the person had died under suspicious circumstances. Mr. H.D. Deve Gowda, Leader of the Opposition, Mr. C. Byre Gowda (Ind.) and Mr. B.B. Sayank (MES) had tabled a calling attention notice on the incident.

'I liked the tandav aspect of Debaprasad's Odissi'

Malaysian dancer and Padma Shri awardee, Ramli Bin Ibrahim, will perform in Bengaluru as part of Nrityantar's Naman 2024



Dance like a man Ramli Ibrahim under the spotlight. SPECIAL AGREEMENT

Shilpa Anandraj

Nrityantar presents its 13th edition of its Odissi dance festival, Naman 2024. "Our effort is to bring together and showcase various styles and schools of Odissi dance and to pay tribute to the great gurus and pioneers for their invaluable contributions to this elegant art form," says Madhulita Mohapatra, the artistic director of Nrityantar Academy of Performing Arts.

Her dance ensemble will present the dance drama, *Siya Ram ... the Eternal Saga*. Besides this, the festival will also feature the Sutra Dance Theatre from Malaysia, led by Ramli Bin Ibrahim, who will also dance at Naman 2024. Speaking on phone from Malaysia, Ramli elaborates about Odissi, Naman 2024 and more.

Edited excerpts.

You learnt ballet and Bharatanatyam, but took to Odissi. What about the form captivated you?

In the '70s Odissi was not popular and there was very little exposure to this dance form. The first time I even heard Odissi was when I heard Odissi music by the late Raghunath Panigrahi. His voice and music was so compelling that it stirred something within me. That was when I learned about Odissi and Sanjukta Panigrahi (dancer). I had a friend, who was just starting to learn Odissi and I saw him dance the *Mangalacharan* and later the *Dashavataar* and fell in love with the form and decided to learn Odissi. I continued to learn ballet and Bharatanatyam. It was later when I met a dancer in Delhi that I discovered Debaprasad's style of Odissi and was drawn to it.

How different was Debaprasad Das's style from that of Kelucharan Mohapatra?

Debaprasadji's form is more Shaivite in nature, while Kelu babu's form, is based on the gotipua dance style. I also feel Debuji's style has an underlying touch of tantrism. He is slightly more minimalist, and his style is austere with a Tandav quality that I find exciting.

Pandit Raghunath Panigrahi's voice was a constant at any Odissi dance recital. Would you say his singing contributed to the rise of Odissi?

Definitely. His voice was one of the major attractions of Odissi dance. I did meet him and Sanjukta Panigrahi many times and felt his melifluous voice, in his earlier singing days, leaned towards the south Indian classical style. Later his voice had a strong swing towards Hindustani. He has influenced a lot of singers in Odissi.

You established an Indian classical dance school in Malaysia. Did you feel you were being unjust to their classical and folk forms?

There is no classical form in Malaysia, but court forms like Joget Gamelan. They are not like classical dance forms of India that go back to the *Natyashashtra*.

The challenge was to do something solo and I felt the Indian classical dance is the epitome of that challenge. Though I was doing ballet, I found, my one leg was in Indian classical dance. I did not feel promoting and practicing Indian classical did any injustice to Malaysian art forms as Chinese, Indian and other forms are part of the Malay fabric. It is in the tapestry of being diverse and multi-cultural. Indian classical dance forms have been a part of the art scene here.

How did you feel when you were awarded the Padma Shri?

It was unexpected and I feel very honoured to be given one of the four highest civilian awards from India. I am the second Malaysian to get this award after Janaky Athi Nahappan, who lived not very far from me. I thank the Indian government for this honour and feel the ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) is encouraging and doing a great job in promoting artistes who practice Indian art forms.

As a choreographer, what are the challenges or hurdles you work with when it comes to international collaborations?

In Odissi, we collaborate with Indian artistes. It is the same with visual artistes as we run a gallery here. We have been promoting artistes from India for the last four decades. For dance, we have collaborated with Madhavi Mudgal, Bichitrananda Swaine and my guru, Gajendra Kumar Panda... they have all been invited to perform here. We collaborate for the dance, music, choreography, music, as everything has to be created from scratch. It has been a wonderful journey of collaboration and creation.

You have created dances based on the *Ramayana*, and on Indian mythological characters like Krishna. What is your approach and treatment to these as a dancer-choreographer?

I try not to interfere with the basic vocabulary as a choreographer out of respect for the dance form itself. What I do is guide, in terms of artistic direction and how the work should go, which is done with the collaborators. Once we were done with the works of Debaprasad's repertoire, we started to commission new works. These needed editing so the texture of the works was well-modulated. I am not into finding new ways of movement or presentation and metaphors. I do not want to underestimate my audience, who are rasikas who know and judge a work from the point of view of the excellence of dancing, message and presentation.

You are coming to Bengaluru for Naman 2024, spearheaded by new-age Odissi dancer, Madhulita. What would you like to applaud about her work?

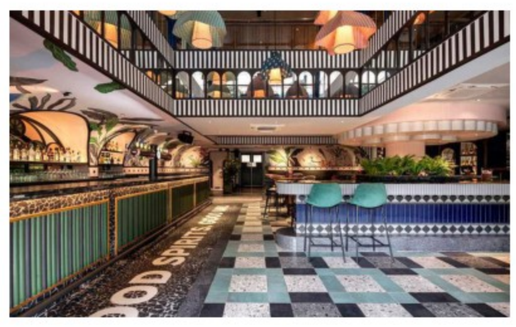
I am huge fan of Madhulita and think students trained from her school have made a strong mark when they perform. I always look forward to a performance by her students. Basically, the guru's style is dependent on who is dancing. The best dancer will bring out the best of the guru's work on the stage flawlessly. I think Indian dance is a dancer's dance, how the dancer brings out the best of the composition is seen in how well the dancer is trained and the interpretation transitions from pure dance to *abhinaya*.

Naman 2024 will be presented on September 1, 5pm at ADA Rangamandira, JC Road. Open to all.

CITYBEATS

Just folk, folks

AUGUST 30
Traditional musicians from Barmer, Jodhpur and Jaisalmer will present folk music from Rajasthan. The event will see eight musicians and dancers, Langa guru Sardar Khan and Khartal player Sawai Khan, perform in collaboration with BIC, Banglanatak, UNESCO and Rajasthan Tourism.
At Indian Music Experience Museum, 7pm. Entry by RSVP



Another Daysie blooms

ONGOING
Daysie opens its all-day casual restaurant in RR Nagar. The restaurant is designed with an all-day bar food menu and beverages. Spanning two floors, Daysie blends indoor and outdoor spaces, allowing diners to enjoy an immersive view.
All-Day Casual Bar is at Halagevaderahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli. Call 918040210000.

On a divine note

SEPTEMBER 1
Navavidha Bhakti, a thematic presentation on the nine ways of connecting with God, will be staged by the Natanam Institute of Dance. Conceived and directed by Raksha Karthik, the dance will be presented by Smriti Sridhar and Raksha herself.
From 6pm at The Medai, Koramangala. Call 98861 07701 for details.

EATING OUT

Ruth Dhanaraj

Let your spirit soar Bengaluru's Sozo Skyline. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sushi and sky

One needs to take a lot into consideration when stepping out for a bite in Bengaluru – distance, traffic, cuisine, ambience, parking and more. Well, now you can add another factor while making your choice – the view.

Among its many pluses, one can count Sozo Skyline staying true to its name. Perched high up on the 17th floor, this pan-Asian dining destination commands a breathtaking view of the city. Located opposite the Vishveshwariah museum, the panorama from the top spans a regal Vidhana Soudha, the High Court lawns and Cubbon Park from the left, sweeping on to Chinnaswamy Stadium and Manekshaw Parade Grounds.

Of late, many pan-Asian restaurants are being more mindful of including vegetarian options and Sozo certainly does not disappoint in this regard. Water chestnut, edamame, quinoa, mock meat and more, are on the menu here.

We begin with the spicy soya and basil dumplings, and a chicken sui mai with water chestnut, before moving on to the mock meat with bok choy and garlic. It is heartening to see each dish arrive at the table paired with specific sauces and dips, and not the usual one-taste-fits-all range of condiments.

The sakura mango sushi of beetroot rice, pickled carrots, mango and carrots served with salsa was as refreshing in taste as it was to look at. While the katsu gimbap of chicken and bell peppers was a tad dry, the Sozo special chicken with nuts and fried shallots was an interesting mix of flavours and textures.

The Rendang curry, a lamb stew spiced with Sumatran herbs and served with jasmine rice was our choice for the main course and its hearty flavours balanced out our over-indulgence with starters.

The food was delicious but what stole the show was dessert – more specifically the ice creams that are made in-house. Unusual flavours such as Hass avocado and wasabi punch vie for your attention with aale palak and Japanese matcha. We gave the aale palak a miss and opted for a scoop each of the avocado and wasabi, and did not regret it.

It is always wonderful to be surprised and these ice creams did just that. Word to the wise – during a subsequent visit we were served the matcha instead of wasabi – a honest mistake due to the similar shades of pastel green. And considering the taste, an unputdownable mistake.

Sozo Skyline
Hits: Wasabi punch icecream, sakura mango sushi, five spice crispy prawn
Misses: Katsu gimbap
Wallet factor: ₹1500 for two (without alcohol)

Exploring violence, belief and morality

Praveen Sudevan

In Girish Karnad's *Bali: The Sacrifice* (the English adaptation of his 1980 Kannada play *Hittina Hunja*), a king is torn between his love for his Jain queen, who refuses to harm life, and his duty to his mother, who demands sacrificial rites. This gripping drama explores the complexities of faith, morality, and the power of love.

The 90-minute English play's exploration of violence and conflicting ideologies resonated with Arundhati Raja, the director. As a tribute to the legendary Karnad, she reimagined the play for her theatre company, Jagriti Theatre, in 2021.

"The play is based, as Girish Karnad's plays are, on an ancient epic, which he then wields into a skilled, dramatic script. This drew me to *Bali* and two other Girish Karnad plays I directed, *The Dreams of Tipu Sultan* and *Yayati*," says Arundhati, "I have always strived, however, to highlight the underlying issues he presents, through his dialogue and plot rather than through a traditional approach in design and performance."

Arundhati delves into the complexities of conflict beyond mere religious differences. She perceives the conflict between the king's mother and the queen as a catalyst rooted in the patriarchal expectation of a male heir. This expectation, she argues, is a pervasive form of violence, often overlooked in favour of physical manifestations.

Existential angst Stills from *Bali*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The question here for me is: What constitutes violence? Is it violence only if there is bloodshed or physical abuse? Is the constant pressure on a woman to produce an heir a form of violence? Or on a man to discard an infertile wife for another who, hopefully, is fertile? Or the demeaning of a lowly mahout, loved for his voice but taunted for his looks?" she asks.

Arundhati also acknowledges the rich literary heritage that inspired Karnad's play. Karnad himself noted that the play's origins can be traced back to a thirteenth-century Kannada epic, *Yashodhara Charite*, and even further to similar stories from the first century. This historical context underscores the enduring power of legends and multi-faceted characters in Indian culture.

The play's connection to these ancient narratives highlights how timeless themes of love, loss, and power continue to resonate with audiences today. "I make no special attempt to make anything relevant. It is all in the script as is. The saying 'Theatre is a mirror to the audience' holds true in a Karnad play," says Arundhati.

She faced challenges in directing *Bali* due to the absence of Karnad. His guidance had been invaluable in *The Dreams of Tipu Sultan* and *Yayati*. "He was always available, a phone call away. He would come in to watch a rehearsal and spend the day with the cast," she recalls. However, once the script captured her imagination, she could immerse herself in the world of *Bali*.

The play serves as a poignant commentary on the enduring nature of violence. Despite the passage of time, human beings continue to grapple with various forms of violence. Through its exploration of power dynamics, societal pressures, and the destructive consequences of conflict, it offers a reflection on the human condition.

When asked what the audience can take away from a play conceived two decades ago by Karnad, she replies, "Time passes, but human beings do not change. We continue to deal with violence in its multi-faceted form. Can we really do something about it? Shouldn't we try harder? These are questions to be mulled over. I don't believe a play should preach."

Bali: The Sacrifice will be staged five times between August 30 to September 1 at Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield. For ages 16 and above. Tickets on BookMyShow.

SC asks Kerala to give details of witnesses in 2017 case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Kerala government to confirm the number of witnesses waiting to be examined in a case of sexual assault of a Malayalam actor inside a moving car in 2017. A Bench headed by Justice A.S. Oka sought the information from the State while hearing a petition for bail by the main accused, Sunil N.S., who is in jail for the past seven years.

Sunil had approached the court after the Kerala High Court dismissed his bail on June 3.

Advocate Sriram Parakkat, appearing for Sunil, produced medical records to prove that his client was unwell. The bail petition said the accused's mother was also undergoing medical treatment. Mr. Parakkat said only one prosecution witness was examined in the past 95 days.

Sunil has complained that the past years have seen a lot of twists and turns. One of the accused is an actor, Dileep. The Bench directed the State to produce the witness deposition records in two weeks and listed the case then.

The court had declined bail to Sunil, also known as Pulsar Suni, in April last year.

The Supreme Court had extended the time for the completion of the trial in the case multiple times.

In August last year, the top court gave time till March 31, 2024, to finish the trial.

SIT prepares road map to probe sexual abuse charges

Probe team will have to rely on survivors' statements to friends, text messages, e-mails, personal journals, and others to build a watertight case; police order transfer of all related cases to SIT

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted to investigate the alleged sexual exploitation in the Malayalam film industry has reportedly prepared a road map for what portends to be a highly complex, legally challenging, public attention-rivetting and politically sensitive probe.

The criminal inquiry could draw top stars, producers, directors, and at least one ruling front legislator to its centre, potentially putting them at risk of severe legal jeopardy.

A senior official said the current investigation was anything but an open-and-shut case. Given the behind-time nature of the alleged sexual offences, he said, the police would have to get a fix on dates, locations, and records of past financial transactions, including receipts, to build a timeline for effective prosecution. The SIT might rely on survivors' contemporaneous statements to friends, text messages, e-mails, personal journals, voice and video clips and social media accounts to build a watertight case. The probe might entail discretely interviewing high-profile industry figures, chiefly women, possibly also as character witnesses, to mine the past propensities of victims and perpetrators to gauge credibility.

For now, the police have commenced the investigation based on the first-person accounts of "coercive" sexual acts at workplaces, unwelcome sexual comments and advances on film sets and at least one alleged instance of trafficking a junior woman artist to a producer for sex that emerged on social and mainstream media following the release of the damning K. Hema Committee report last week.

By some accounts, the survivors who went public with their grievances last weekend have expressed willingness to have their statements recorded in camera by magistrate courts, potentially giving investigators considerable latitude in fixing responsibility.

The incriminating testimonies and evidence recorded by the committee, which flagged endemic sexual exploitation and gender discrimination in the industry, remained classified and did not fall under the SIT's mandate at present. The Kerala High Court will likely take a call on the matter soon.

A survivor told reporters that a woman IPS officer in the SIT had contacted her. "The officer sounded sympathetic and protective," she said. A law enforcer said painstaking fact-checking would follow empathetic listening.

Meanwhile, the Kerala Police ordered local police stations to transfer cases related to the scandal to the SIT. They have also reinforced the unit with more women officers.

The Congress and the BJP sought to mount pressure on the ruling LDF for the resignation of CPI(M) MLA and actor M. Mukesh.

BJP State chief K. Surendran seemed openly at variance with Suresh Gopi. "Mr. Gopi is entitled to his personal opinion. However, the BJP has called for Mr. Mukesh's resignation, which is the party line," he added.

Congress workers demanding prosecution based on the Hema Committee report in Kochi on Friday. THULASI KAKKAT

It's blackmail tactics against me: Mukesh

The Hindu Bureau
KOLLAM

M. Mukesh, CPI(M) MLA, has denied allegations of sexual harassment raised against him by actor Minu Muneer tagging it as "blackmail tactics".

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the actor-turned-politician said he had first met Ms. Muneer in 2009 when she contacted him over the phone introducing herself as an aspiring actor.

'Allegations are media fabrications'

The Hindu Bureau
THRISSUR

Firing back at the media, actor and Union MoS for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi has said the scandals plaguing the film industry are "media fabrications". "Media are disrupting a major system. The court will address the complaints, which are now in the form of allegations. Are you the court?" he asked the mediapersons.

Delhi HC's reasoning in Kavitha case wrong: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday found Delhi High Court's reasoning that educated, sophisticated women do not deserve the rare leeway afforded by the anti-money laundering law in bail cases simply erroneous.

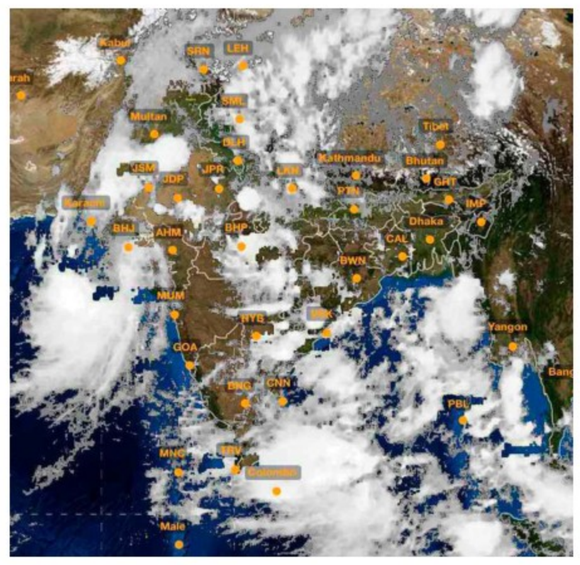
Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 or PMLA covers bail. A proviso to Clause (1) of Section 45 allows courts discretion to exempt persons aged below 16, women, the sick or the infirm from stringent conditions for bail, providing humane relief.

In its July 1 bail order, the Delhi High Court refused Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K. Kavitha bail in the excise policy case on grounds that she did not answer to the description of a "vulnerable woman". She was educated with accomplishments in politics and social work. She was a Member of the Legislative Council from Telangana, the High Court had reasoned.

In appeal, the Supreme Court orally remarked the High Court's take was "fantastic". "Are we now to read categories of women into the provision? How do we proceed in law like that? A woman is a woman," Justice K.V. Viswanathan observed. Justice Viswanathan referred to Article 15(3) of the Constitution which mandates the state to make special provisions for women and children.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Saurashtra & Kutch, Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.5	25.4	Kozhikode	4	33.4	26.4
Ahmedabad	138	25.9	23.8	Kurnool	2	33.6	24.2
Aizawl	43	32.0	22.5	Lucknow	—	34.0	27.0
Allahabad	0.7	32.4	26.1	Madurai	—	38.4	25.6
Bengaluru	—	28.1	20.9	Mangaluru	4.8	29.6	23.5
Bhopal	—	31.3	23.2	Mumbai	5	30.6	26.1
Bhubaneswar	48	30.7	23.5	Mysuru	—	29.3	20.0
Chandigarh	49	35.3	23.6	New Delhi	17	34.2	22.2
Chennai	—	35.0	28.7	Patna	3	31.3	26.4
Coimbatore	—	33.1	23.6	Port Blair	30	26.0	23.7
Dehradun	13	34.2	23.6	Puducherry	—	34.7	27.3
Gangtok	44	20.4	18.2	Pune	22	28.4	21.5
Goa	25	29.6	24.9	Raipur	—	32.8	25.3
Guwahati	—	35.5	26.2	Ranchi	0.9	28.8	23.1
Hubballi	—	27.0	23.0	Shillong	—	26.3	16.9
Hyderabad	—	30.2	23.3	Shimla	83	27.2	17.0
Imphal	—	31.9	20.3	Srinagar	—	25.3	16.4
Jaipur	50	30.2	23.8	Thiruvananthapuram	5	31.8	26.0
Kochi	3	30.6	26.2	Tiruchi	—	36.5	26.4
Kohima	—	28.4	19.2	Vijayawada	—	36.6	27.4
Kolkata	42	30.2	25.0	Visakhapatnam	—	32.7	27.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.37	..18	18	 14	24	.....
Bengaluru	.15	..28	59	..... —	...101	.....
Chennai	.11	..25	25	 56	56	.....
Delhi	..—	..98	41	 60	84	.....
Hyderabad	.16	..28	34	 61	70	.....
Kolkata	.19	..21	21	 21	42	.....
Lucknow	.11	9	39	 45	32	.....
Mumbai	...3	..40	47	 23	28	.....
Pune	..—	..29	47	 24	27	.....
Visakhapatnam	...9	..52	23	..... —	...112	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Guwahati, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 136 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Gangtok, Sikkim recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

THE FEDERAL BANK LIMITED
Regd. Office: Aluva, Kerala.

ZONAL OFFICE: 1st Floor, Halcyon Complex, No.9, St Marks Road, Bangalore-560 001.
e-mail: bgrr-cpc@federalbank.co.in Phone: 080-22074610/604/613/624/625

BGRR/PvtSale/2024-25 — NOTICE FOR PRIVATE SALE OF GOLD — 27/08/2024

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold Ornaments pledged in the following Gold Loan accounts, with the under mentioned Branches of the Bank, which are overdue for redemption and which have not been regularized so far in spite of repeated notices, will be put for Private sale, in the respective Branches on any date after 10-09-2024 as shown below:

Br. Belthangadi: Suvarna Arcade, Belthangadi, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka- 574 214, Ph no. 08256-232404 :-
19016400066093,19016400080987,19016400090796,19016400083460,19016400091240,19016400083171.
Br. Bhatkal: Misbah Chambers, Ranginkatta, NH 17, Bhatkal, Uttar Kannada, Karnataka- 581 320 :-
19866400043827,19866400073311,19866400089739,19866400099498,19866400057884,19866400079219,19866400090836,19866400101757,19866400062819,19866400082031,19866400092055,19866400104041,19866400067883,19866400082221,19866400096056,19866400105055,19866400069491,19866400084565,19866400097377,19866400105519,19866400069988,19866400086180,19866400097658,19866400107739,19866400070945,19866400087766,19866400097666,19866400110519,19866400071950,19866400088194,19866400097955,19866400110584,19866400072164,19866400088210,19866400098292,19866400114081,19866400099902,19866400099852.
Br. Chikmagalur: P B No 157, Bm Buildings, Thogarihenkal Circle, K M Road, Chikmagaluru- 577 101, Ph no. 08262-233024 :-
13566400220666,13566400221706,13566400206533,13566400206525,13566400207234,13566400184003,13566400143892,13566400223512,13566400207945,13566400223728,13566400223744,13566400208240,13566400184771,13566400223793,13566400196619,13566400223991,13566400208737,13566400211715,13566400178443,13566400178450,13566400177387,13566400201773,13566400209719,13566400224726,13566400224866,13566400225012,13566400202409,13566400225566,13566400179474,13566400195009,13566400225764,13566400223819.
Br. Hebri: Spatika Plaza, Kuchoor Road, Hebri, Karkala Taluk, Udupi- 576 112, Ph No. 08253-250045 :-
18966100006032,18966400023901,18966400024479,18966400025310,18966400025476,18966400025658,18966400025872,18966400026136,18966400026987.
Br. Hassan: Ground Floor, St. Antony's Church Complex, NR Circle, HN Pura Road, Hassan, Karnataka- 573 201 :-
13546400225642,13546400277296,13546400277577,13546400263221,13546400232531,13546400277080,13546400235724,13546400295579,13546400223399,13546400236110,13546400274731,13546400274749,13546400296841,13546400303472,13546400238082,13546400296643,13546400295520,13546400277064,13546400229966,13546400297062,13546600005216,13546400295132,13546400283393,13546400304785,13546400293715,13546400225782,13546400276322,13546400234628,13546400275480,13546400278393,13546400295264,13546400244783,13546400297542,13546400229966,13546400229636,13546400297062,13546400322803,13546400258254,13546400210172,13546400295124,13546400293715,13546400225782,13546400276322,13546400308992,13546400275480,13546400278393,13546400277742,13546400279169,13546400297096,13546400223837,13546400227069,13546400277056,13546400295124,13546400293236.
Br. Kadur: Dr Vishwanath Building, Maravanji Circle, BH Road, Kadur, Chikmagalur- 577 548 Ph no. 08267-221244 :-
18936400026147,18936400044488,18936400049495,18936400048828,18936400037391,18936400041286,18936400033440.
Br. Kadaba: Ground Floor, Anugraha Complex, Main Road, Kadaba, Dakshina Kannada- 574 221, Karnataka :- 20126400025465,20126400035191,20126400041165,20126400038377,20126400029798,20126400031083,20126400036785,20126400043245,20126400038351,20126400038187.
Br. Kundapura: Shivram Complex, Municipal Main Road, Kundapura, Udupi- 576201 Ph No. 08254 233144 :-
20146400081557,20146400105521,20146400098239,20146400108657,20146400081565,20146400108269,20146400108426,20146400109093,20146400107634,20146400086697,20146400108681,20146400095110.
Br. Kushalnagar: HRS Mansion, BM Road, Kushal Nagar, Kodagu District- 571 234, Ph. 08276 274084 :-
19316400059134,19316400087549,19316400086434,19316400087754,19316400081765,19316400094412,19316400068267,19316400092531,19316400087713,19316400039292,19316400091681,19316400094347,19316400078068,19316400058268,19316400088273,19316400097449,19316400061064,19316400058276,19316400087697,19316400085246,19316400061072,19316400069695,19316400078787,19316400085816,19316400087416,19316400077797,19316400081021,19316400074810,19316400085998,19316400056098,19316400082383,19316400073952,19316400079215,19316400056908,19316400083779,19316400070537,19316400079223,19316400085881,19316400087440,19316400059936,19316400051719,19316400094792,19316400088943,19316400086293,19316400054655,19316400095088,19316400092333,19316400087960,19316400068358,19316400086236,19316400093844,19316400087952.
Br. Karkala: Opp Bundimatt Bus Stand, Karkala, Udupi District- 574104 :- 19636400026597.
Br. Kinnigoli : C4 and C5, Pintos Golden Castle, Talipady Road, Next to BSNL office, Kinnigoli, Dakshin Kannad, Karnataka, 574150 Ph : 0824-2295690 :-
20076400032674,20076400032690,20076400032823,20076400032740,20076400032856.
Br. Moodabidri: Next to Hotel Pancharatna Buidling, Moodabidri, Dakshin Kannada Dist.- 574 227 :-
19626400067196,19626400065018,19626400072964,19626400069911,19626400072527,19626400065760,19626400071628,19626400072543,19626400073202,19626400056983,19626400072766,19626400073194,19626400064284,19626400072659,19626400073269,19626400064508,19626400072931,19626400073285,19626400064607,19626400072980,19626400076593,19626400072287,19626400072972,19626400073467.
Br. Mangalore: P B No. 775, Near PVS Circle, Manasa Towers, M G Road, Kodialbail, Mangalore, Dakshin Kannada- 575 003, Ph No. 08242-497883 :-
11756400037440,11756400035659,11756400043919,11756400041202,11756400035691,11756400043869,11756400040915,11756400035709,11756400044560,11756400035667,11756400043760,11756400044594,11756400035675,11756400041723,11756400043745,11756400043752,11756400043562,11756400043570,11756400043588,11756400045872,11756400045922.
Br. Mangalore/Kankanady: The Vintage, Kankanady, Dakshina Kannada, Mangalore-575002, Ph No. 08242430152:-
17706400031350,17706400031517,17706400031525,17706400031533,17706400031541,17706400031558,17706400035922,17706400028802,17706400028810,17706400028828,17706400029933,17706400035773,17706400035021.
Br. Nellyadi: Elite Plaza, Nh 48, Near St.George P U College, Nellyadi, Dakshin Kannada, Karnataka-574 229, Ph No.08251-256100:-
16446400068414,16446400089188,16446400095219,16446400096316,16446400096456,16446400099898,16446400100803,16446400102767,16446600001025.
Br. Puttur: Meenar Complex, Main Road, Puttur, Dakshin Kannad- 574 201, Ph No. 08251-233544 :-
18946400088823,18946400089524,18946400071159,18946400064550,18946400089557,18946400095273,18946400084806.
Br. Shimoga: Haranahalli Manjappa Complex,, Park Extension Road, Durgigudi, Shimoga District- 577 201, Ph No. 08182-271998 :-
15906400083979,15906400068129,15906400083698,15906400075058,15906400076627,15906400088416,15906400069432,15906400077179,15906400084464,15906100025429,15906400084068,15906400084902,15906400084498,15906400067634,15906400075991,15906400083904,15906400084613,15906400075918,15906400084225,15906400073004,15906400083821,15906400060001,15906400077195,15906400084050,15906400083847,15906400084035,15906400075611,15906400067683,15906400063088,15906400076148,15906400062338,15906400076585,15906400083318,15906400084456,15906100027391,15906400061835,15906400089406,15906400064094,15906400085016,15906400086352,15906400047230,15906400089273,15906400089141,15906400080728,15906400057445,15906100027474,15906400084639,15906400088739,15906400084522.
Br. Sullia: Ganesh Complex, Main Road, Sullia, Dakshina Kannada- 574239, Ph no. 08257 230818 :-
19006400043432,19006400033615,19006400025553,19006400039653,19006400030280, 19006100028436,19006400039414.
Br. Udupi: Mahalasa Towers, Court Road, Udupi, Karnataka- 576 101, Ph no. 08202521562 :-
15746400065364,15746400062304,15746400063229,15746400063278,15746400062452,15746400062981,15746400063252,15746400063252,15746400063260,15746400053238,15746400060324,15746400063294,15746400063294,15746400057544,15746400053618,15746400060423,15746400063211,15746400063211,15746400060795,15746400055936,15746400060944,15746400065471.
Br. Karwar: 451/G-1, Suprabha, Green Street, Karwar, Uttar Kannad, Karnataka- 581 301 Ph: 91-8382-222842 :-
16286400033202,16286400033509,16286400033400,16286400033996,16286400033350.
Br. Gonikopal: Sudharma Building, Near Masjid, Ponnampet Road Jn, Main Road, Gonikoppal, Kodagu - 571 213 :-
19616400112795,19616400123917,19616400123693,19616400124535,19616400069748,19616400120731,19616400124246,19616400106409,19616400123420,19616400112795,19616400123727,19616400110823,19616400123651,19616400132884,19616400122554,19616400129443,19616400106102,19616400124535.

Bangalore 27-08-2024 — Vice President & Zonal Head

ICMR - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE
आई सी एम आर-राष्ट्रीय पारम्परिक चिकित्साविज्ञान संस्थान
Nehru Nagar, National Highway No. 4, BELAGAVI - 590 010. Tel: 0831- 2475477

ICMR-NITM Belagavi invites applications for filling up the following posts purely on contract basis.

Sr. No.	Post Name	No. of Vacancies	Last date for submission of filled application
1.	CONSULTANT (Admin/Accounts)	02 (UR)	17.09.2024 Up to 5:00 pm

For detailed advertisement please visit the **https://icmrnitm.res.in/careers/** and **www.icmr.nic.in** websites.

Date : **27.08.2024** Sd/-
Place: **Belagavi** **Director**

HUBBLLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, P.B. Road, Navanagar, HUBBALLI, Phone No: 0836-2223526 Website : www.hescom.karnataka.gov.in
E-Mail ID : seepmc.hescom@gmail.com / eep3.hescom@gmail.com CIN : U31401KA2002SGC030437

No: HESCOM/SEE(PMC)/EE-P3/AEE-1/2024-25/10196-200 **Dated: 26-08-2024**

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP Portal Only)

Superintending Engineer (Ele), Projects Monitoring Cell, Corporate Office, HESCOM, Hubballi invites the tenders pertaining to the following works under TTK & Lump sum basis.

Sl.No.	Particulars	Bid Indent No.
1	SCP/TSP works FY 2024-25	HESCOM/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT466 to 509 (44 Packages)

The detailed notification regarding the bid enquiry can be obtained by logging in to the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **28-08-2024.**

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Project Monitoring Cell, HESCOM, Hubli.

DIPR/Dharwad/305/Adverto/2024-25

ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಎಫ್ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಹಕಾರ ಹಾಲು ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳ ನಿಯಮಿತ
ಕಹಾಮ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ, ಡಾ. ಎಂ. ಹೆಚ್.ಮರೀಗೌಡ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 029. ಫೋನ್: 080- 26096834, 26096888, 26096811

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಹಾಮ/ಅಭಿ/ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಕೆಲಸಗಳು/ಟೆಂಡರ್/01919/2024-25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.08.2024

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಹಾಲು ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳವು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಡಿ/ಸಿ.ಪಿ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಡಿ/ಎಂ.ಇ.ಎಸ್ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು / ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕೋಷ್ಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಕೆಲಸಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖೇನ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು (Technical and Financial) ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.
(Help desk E-mail: support@eprochelpdesk.com and helpline no+91-804601000, +91-8068948777)

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. (ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ.ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ರೂ.	ಮುಕ್ತಾಯದ ಅವಧಿ
1	ಕಹಾಮದ ಕಲ್ಬುರ್ಗಿ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ನಂದಿನಿ ಸಗಟು ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಳಿಗೆ / ಡಿಪೋ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮತ್ತಿತರೆ ಪೂರಕ ಕೆಲಸಗಳು-ಕಲ್ಬುರ್ಗಿ.	255.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು	3,82,000/-	12 ತಿಂಗಳು
2	ಕಹಾಮ ಘಟಕವಾದ ನಂದಿನಿ ವೀರ್ಯಾಣು ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ನೂತನ ಆಡಳಿತ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮತ್ತಿತರೆ ಪೂರಕ ಕೆಲಸಗಳು – ಹೆಸರಘಟ್ಟ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.	289.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು	4,33,500/-	12 ತಿಂಗಳು

1. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:28.08.2024 ರಿಂದ 27.09.2024 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 2. ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.09.2024 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 3. ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು (Cover - 1) ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.09.2024 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.

ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು, ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ/ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಹಕಾರ ಹಾಲು ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳ ಪರವಾಗಿ
ಸಹಿ/- ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಅಭಿ-1)

Coordinated attacks

Pakistan cannot take a militaristic approach to the Baloch conflict

Ever since the Taliban, hosted by Pakistan's security forces, recaptured Kabul in August 2021, Pakistan, especially in its Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces neighbouring Afghanistan, has seen a surge in terrorist attacks. In 2023 alone, there were over 650 recorded attacks, with 23% occurring in Balochistan, which is Pakistan's largest province by landmass and a hotbed of separatist insurgency. But even in this new normal, Monday was one of the bloodiest days for Balochistan and Pakistan. On the eighteenth death anniversary of Nawab Akbar Bugti, a Baloch nationalist leader killed by the Pakistani military in 2006, separatists carried out coordinated attacks across the province. The Baloch Liberation Army has claimed responsibility for the many deaths. According to security officials, the separatists damaged infrastructure and executed migrant labourers from Punjab. That the attacks occurred in different parts of Balochistan show the growing reach and capability of the insurgency. Bugti's death anniversaries have seen violent incidents in the past, but Pakistan's military and intelligence services were caught off guard on August 26.

Historically, Pakistan has taken a ruthless, militarist approach towards the Baloch problem. Balochistan, despite its wealth of natural resources, is the country's most impoverished region. Pakistan has historically neglected the province. Punjab, on the other hand, grew to be influential in national politics and economically prosperous, leading to strong anti-Punjab tendencies within sections of the Baloch community. This, along with the poor living conditions, was exploited by the separatists to drum up support for their cause. They often attack the federal government "for extracting" resources without offering any help to the local economy. Baloch separatists have cited the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which goes through the province, as an example of this exploitation, and targeted Chinese interests. The Pakistani establishment has also failed to engage with the civil rights movements in Balochistan, such as the Baloch Yakjehti Committee, which organised several sit-ins in Islamabad and Baloch cities this year to draw the attention of the federal authorities to widespread human rights abuses in the province. Such activists were often painted as "enemies of Pakistan", which left the military with the only option of using force against the separatists. But state violence has only strengthened the separatists – as the latest attacks underscore. If Pakistan is serious about stability and security in its largest province, it should take measures to address the developmental concerns of the locals, stop the rights violations and engage with the peaceful civil rights voices to reset ties with the Balochis.

Reasonable limits

Laissez-faire approach to content hosting, not commitment to free speech

That free speech is not absolute and is subject to certain restrictions for public order, morals and public health is something that has been codified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The founder and chief executive officer of Telegram, Pavel Durov, is a technology creator who has emphasised absolute free speech on his platform and has built an anti-establishmentarian image by risking the wrath of nation-states in allowing dissidents to use the messaging application. His detention and arrest by French authorities, in connection with investigations related to criminal activity on the app, has raised the question if this has been done to provide a chilling effect on freedom of expression on the Internet. But the answer is more complicated. His laissez-faire approach to content on the app has meant that it is host also to extremism, drug dealers, scammers and, according to France, child pornography as well. Mr. Durov has said, "privacy...is more important than our fear of bad things happening ...and that, to be truly free, you should be ready to risk everything for freedom". But can it be done to override the responsibility to prevent consequences which could endanger people's safety and freedom? This is a key question to ask about messaging apps and "free speech absolutists" such as Mr. Durov.

Telegram is more than just a messaging app given some of its social networking features. While its encryption mechanisms allow for ease of access for dissidents and anti-state actors to use the app without scrutiny, it does not fully use "end to end" encryption – something that apps such as Signal do. This means that some messages related to criminal activity, disinformation, and child pornography can be read by Telegram; it can act on requests from law enforcement agencies if needed. Telegram, in response to Mr. Durov's arrest, has said that its moderation "is within industry standards" and has questioned whether the platform/owner are liable or responsible for "abuse of that platform". That may well be the case, but if in investigations by France, the platform is seen to have wilfully refused to act upon requests to curb hate speech, disinformation and contents related to criminal activity, Mr. Durov cannot and should not escape the long arm of the law. In India, the baleful effects of misinformation on platforms such as WhatsApp were visible some years ago, before the application came up with certain restrictions. These helped tamp down the spread of misinformation. For Telegram to remain a free speech advocate and a platform, it must eschew absolutism and become more responsible in moderating content.

Advancing equity, from COVID-19 to Mpox

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Less than five years after the COVID-19 pandemic, the world faces the threat of another global health crisis. The World Health Organization (WHO) has, once again, declared mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), following its outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Africa, and subsequently spreading to over a dozen African countries. This comes on the heels of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention's (AfricaCDC) declaration of a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security (PHECS), marking the first instance where both regional and global health emergencies have been declared concurrently for the same disease. In the days following the PHEIC declaration, cases of mpox were identified in Sweden, Pakistan and the Philippines, indicating that the virus has likely spread beyond the African continent.

This WHO declaration is significant as it is the first PHEIC announced since the May 2024 amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR). And of all the IHR reforms, the inclusion of equity as a core principle was perhaps the most important. Although these amendments will not take effect until 2025, it is crucial that the global response to the mpox outbreak is grounded in this principle from the outset. Those amendments further expand WHO's role as a facilitator of essential medical products during emergencies.

A PHEIC is intended to foster international cooperation. Countries, international organisations, and non-governmental organisations must collaborate to coordinate their responses, share information, and provide mutual assistance. The declaration should trigger the rapid mobilisation of financial and technical resources, including emergency funding, deployment of trained health-care workers, and provision of medical supplies.

Mirroring the COVID-19 pandemic response

One of the most glaring shortcomings exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic was the inadequacy of vaccine manufacturing capabilities in the Global South, exacerbated by the lack of technology transfers and the know-how to produce vaccines developed in the West. So far, the global response to the mpox outbreak appears to be following a similar trajectory.

However, the present response to mpox differs significantly from COVID-19 in one key aspect: the availability of a vaccine. The Modified Vaccinia Ankara-Bavarian Nordic (MVA-BN), also known as Jynneos, is already in production by Danish manufacturer Bavarian Nordic. This vaccine, produced using primary chick embryo fibroblast (CEF) cell cultures, shares its production process with several other vaccines, including those for measles, mumps, rabies, and tick-borne encephalitis. Regulatory authorities in the European Union and United Kingdom (marketed as Imvanex®), United States and Switzerland (marketed as Jynneos®), and Canada (marketed as Imvamune®) have already approved the vaccine.

> In the face of the mpox outbreak, the global community has the opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to equitable prevention and health care by ensuring widespread access to a vaccine

The mpox outbreak presents an opportunity to apply lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic by ramping up vaccine production in the Global South, and leveraging the existing MVA-BN vaccine. Indian manufacturers, in particular, have the potential to play a critical role in ensuring equitable access to this vaccine, ensuring it reaches the populations that need it the most, at the right time. Indeed, India was a critical partner during COVID-19, facilitating the mass production of the vaccine largely credited with saving the most lives – Oxford/AstraZeneca's vaccine marketed in India as Covishield.

Ensuring technology transfers

As countries closely monitor the mpox outbreak, the demand for vaccines is expected to surge. The AfricaCDC estimates that 10 million doses are needed to stem the outbreak, yet only about 0.21 million doses may be available immediately. Bavarian Nordic has informed the AfricaCDC that it has the capacity to manufacture 10 million doses by the end of 2025. The price of an mpox shot has been estimated at $100. This underscores the need for sustainable, low-cost production of the MVA-BN vaccine.

India is well-positioned to meet this challenge. Three major vaccine manufacturers – the Serum Institute of India, Bharat Biotech, and Zydus Cadila – already have the experience of producing vaccines using CEF cells. Notably, the Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech played pivotal roles in both the national and global responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

These manufacturers likely have the expertise to quickly scale up MVA production in CEF cells. Additionally, they may already have established supply chains for key materials, such as SPF eggs, which could be leveraged to expand production. The lower cost structure of manufacturers in lower-middle-income countries (LMICs) could also reduce the price of vaccines, increasing demand and making doses more accessible.

Rapidly scaling up MVA-BN production will require comprehensive technology transfer, including the sharing of biological resources, know-how, and patents. Often overlooked, the transfer of the relevant know-how is crucial and has historically been a major hurdle in outbreak responses. It is the sharing of knowledge, rather than just doses, that distinguishes charity from justice. Writing on the key contentious issues in the ongoing negotiations for the WHO Pandemic Treaty in this daily (Editorial page, "The global struggle for a pandemic treaty", August 1, 2024), these writers argued that technology transfers "are needed to ensure diverse manufacturing capacities globally so that LMICs are no longer reliant on 'charity' from high-income countries and can maintain self-sufficiency".

The Indian government, along with regulators, should collaborate with the United States, the European Union, and key international organisations such as WHO, Gavi, and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), to negotiate with Bavarian Nordic for the transfer of technology. By leveraging the expertise and the experiences of these organisations and working with manufacturers in developing countries, these efforts can help scale low-cost production and ensure equitable access to the MVA-BN vaccine, thereby curtailing the epidemic and preventing further outbreaks. That would benefit countries both in the Global North and South.

A move with impact

In a recent significant move, on August 7, India's drug regulatory agency, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), waived the requirement for clinical trials in India for drugs approved in the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, Australia, Canada, and the European Union. This waiver, which includes 'new drugs used in pandemic situations,' will expedite the availability of critical vaccines such as MVA-BN in the country.

In the face of the mpox outbreak, the global community has a critical opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to equitable prevention and health care by ensuring widespread access to a mpox vaccine, targeted to those most in need. By fostering international cooperation, prioritising technology transfers, and leveraging the manufacturing capabilities of countries such as India, we can not only address the current crisis but also strengthen our preparedness for future public health emergencies. The time to act is now, before history repeats itself.

The continuing churn in the Chinese military

Anushka Saxena
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August 1, 2024 marked the 97th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), and the week was celebrated with pomp and show. But there were also sombre inspections and clandestine changes in the military leadership. More specifically, the Southern and Northern Theaters of the PLA witnessed a change in commanders, with General Wu Yanan and General Huang Ming, respectively, taking charge sometime in the last month. These new appointments, revealed rather silently in the provincial coverage of August 1 ceremonies, are the latest in a line of dismissals and replacements in the PLA, and are stirring the pot of speculations over potential reasons and implications.

Tumult in the Southern Theater

In recent months, China has been embroiled in skirmishes with the Philippines in the South China Sea. It has drawn critique from regional powers such as Japan and the United States, and has caused the overall security situation to deteriorate. With China's external environment becoming increasingly hostile, as expressed in President Xi Jinping's oft-repeated words, "profound changes unseen in a century", the PLA is expected to transform into a "world class" military force prepared to take on diverse regional conflicts.

Hence, the surreptitious removal of General Wang Xiubin as commander of the Southern Theater may signal his perceived inefficiencies in solidifying China's ambitious and belligerent vision of naval power. However, beyond these obvious factors, internal politics within the Theater Command may also have something to do with Wang's replacement.

In June 2024, the Central Military Commission (CMC), China's highest decision-making body on defence matters, organised its Political Work Conference. Soon after, the Southern Theater command organised a study session to "understand and implement the Conference's spirit". It was revealed then that a joint training exercise had been recently conducted between the theatre's various naval units, and that the results were dismal. More specifically, during this exercise, some political officers were found to be very inefficient in fulfilling their wartime mobilisation duties.

> The changes in the military leadership have shown up the faultlines in the reform vision

In April 2024, various military officers in the theatre also met to discuss tensions between older veterans and new leading officers. It was concluded that the common goal for all theatre personnel was to evolve from "mutual discontent" to "mutual support". And as the theatre grappled with issues pertaining to cohesion and efficiency, it had to establish a "fault tolerance" mechanism to allow personnel to make mistakes, report errors without the fear of reprimand, and enable rectification upon inspection.

When sweeping reforms in the PLA were first initiated in 2015, they promised to create a perfect military force. The emphases on achieving flawless interoperability, creating a seamless hierarchy where younger personnel had the freedom to innovate, and building an exquisite mechanism for wartime mobilisation, have also barely wavered. But in less than a decade, these developments in the Southern Theater have shown the faultlines in the reform vision.

Implications for the PLA

In this light, it is important to assess what General Wu Yanan's leadership may mean for the Southern Theater command. To begin with, a potential reason for Wu's appointment as theatre commander may be that he has extensive experience working side-by-side with party bosses.

Wu is a veteran of the CMC Joint Staff Department, having served as its deputy chief of staff. He has previously also served as Commander of the Central Theater, working closely with officials in Beijing on critical national security issues. In this regard, his appointment to the Southern Theater may well be about implementing the Chinese Communist Party's reform agenda to a T. Achieving "jointness" between various forces attached to the theatre is vital, and Wu's experience may be helpful here.

Within a week of his appointment making the news, the Southern Theater command has sprung back on its feet, and has declared that it has "everything under control". In fact, the joint maritime and aerial patrols conducted by the theatre's forces on August 7 near the Scarborough islands, show that the theatre is already testing its reconnaissance and early warning capabilities, rapid manoeuvrability, and joint strike proficiency in the disputed region. With Wu in charge, it is likely that both combat preparedness and political cohesion in the theatre will be subject to more pressure tests, and frequent demonstrations of military might in the South China Sea may become a vital parameter of efficiency.

On a broader level, the changes reveal that the PLA's reform bucket list is nowhere near fulfilled. It also indicates that this period of flux in the PLA, which is marked by purges and replacements motivated by corruption scandals and inefficiencies in reform, is nowhere near over. However, the new leadership is expected to put the internal affairs of the theatres concerned in order, so that the military force can inch closer to its goal of becoming a "world class" one by mid-century.

Lessons for India

From the Indian perspective, it is important that it is able to gather much from these changes as far as the nature of leadership in the PLA is concerned. As the CCP's army, military commanders are not just assigned based on merit or experience but also on loyalty to the party-state's goals and priorities. Given that China is both India's principal rival and its most significant military challenger, India must strive to study the doctrinal evolution of reforms in the PLA, and place the leadership changes in that context.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Look at the root cause

It would be hypocritical to believe that Kerala was unaware of the murky goings-on in the Malayalam film industry before the release of the Justice K. Hema Committee report. Television channels are doing incalculable damage to the future of the Malayalam film industry through their cavalier and insensitive attitude. All and sundry are being allowed air their views on screen and take pot shots. Sensationalism and voyeurism rule the roost. It is illusory to believe that the film industry will be cleaned up in the aftermath of the revelations in the Hema Committee report. The root cause of the malady lies in the feudalistic and patriarchal male psyche in Kerala. Those who express concern over the revelations in the report should open their eyes to the pitiful and helpless state of women workers in malls, textile shops and even hospitals to understand the generic dimension of issues being brought to the fore.

Manohar Alembath,
Kannur, Kerala

'Extradite Sheikh Hasina'

The demand put forth by the general secretary of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party for the extradition of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has landed New Delhi in a sticky situation ('World' page, "India should extradite Hasina: BNP leader", August 27). The only saving grace is that such a demand has not been voiced by the interim government in Dhaka. If it does, it could call for adroit diplomacy and tact by New Delhi.

C.G. Kuriakose,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

On pension

That the burden of statutory pension for government employees is a tax on the vast majority of the unemployed/self-employed, cannot be swept under the carpet of convenient politics. Government employees, being a unionised force, wield much more power. The voice of the larger society — with no social security in its sunset years — is feeble. It can be easily ignored or pacified with some 'petty doles' during election time. The notion of pension at a higher percentage of the last drawn salary for longer service decimates the very principle of equity, fair play and natural justice. Longer service and higher emoluments thereon should have been used to build a large retirement nest egg. If at all any guarantee of a minimum assured pension is to be thought of, it should be for all citizens above a fixed age.

Jose Abraham,
Vaikom, Kottayam, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

India needs to develop a care ecosystem

Rama V. Baru

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Pallavi Gupta

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Low female labour force participation rate (FLFPR) has been the focus of the bulk of the discussion around women's empowerment. According to the Economic Survey 2023-24, against a world average of 47.8% (2022), the FLFPR in India was 37% (2022-23). Although it increased from 23.3% in 2017-18, 37.5% of this share comprises "unpaid helpers in household enterprises", that is, women who are not paid for the work they do, which is separate from domestic work.

Women's active participation in the economy is crucial for reducing gender inequality. A key reason for women's low economic participation is the disproportionately high burden of care that they shoulder within the family. This ranges from childcare to the care of other household members, including the elderly, sick, and disabled. Added to these care responsibilities is other domestic work. In India, women aged 15-64 years spend about three times more time daily than men on unpaid domestic work.

Responding to childcare needs

To increase women's participation in the labour force, attention is now being paid to childcare. Some State governments have focused on building support services through the existing Anganwadi network. In the 2024-25 Budget, there has been a 3% increase in the Ministry of Women and Child Development's budget for the integrated childcare and nutrition programme (Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 scheme). The Ministry has been working towards a policy framework to address the need for childcare. Different models of community-based creches for children are operational in parts of some States, with partnership between government and non-government bodies. It would be worthwhile to review these models for replicability, financial sustainability, and scalability. A more widespread network of creches suitable to the local context and populace is required in rural, tribal, and urban areas to facilitate the participation of women in the workforce.

However, recognising only childcare needs is a limiting perspective. Women are primary caregivers across the life course of household members. Hence, for women to participate in the economy, their care responsibilities need to shift elsewhere. The demand for external support in the form of hired caregivers is rising in urban and peri-urban areas. However, there are no standardised processes for employment of such workers. Domestic workers often double up as caregivers without any training or protection for themselves. There are no minimum wages, employment standards, safety and security measures, and quality standards for care by hired workers.

Offloading responsibilities

To offload women's care responsibilities, it is crucial to create an ecosystem that responds to the household's care needs while protecting the rights of care workers. This ecosystem must provide for safe, quality, and affordable care by care workers who are well-trained, earn decent wages, and command dignity and respect for their work.

From the demand side, developing a needs-based assessment of the mix of care services required across age groups, socio-economic status, and geographies would be a first step. A mapping of supply-side actors and institutions must include the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

With demand for care on the rise across a family's life course, given rising incidence of ill-health and disabilities, the availability and quality of care workers have emerged as a major policy concern. Care workers are hired directly by families or through placement agencies, nursing bureaus, hospitals, home healthcare companies, and not-for-profit organisations, among others. The more organised ones train their workers and have a multidisciplinary team to attend to the varied needs, including specialised nursing, palliative, and end-of-life care at home. However, in the absence of any standards and regulations, the availability, accessibility, affordability, and quality of these services vary across regions.

Need for policy intervention

The gap in the training, skilling, and certification of a mix of care workers required to meet the growing demand needs to be addressed. The Domestic Workers Sector Skill Council (rechristened as the Home Management and Care Givers Sector Skill Council), the Healthcare Sector Skill Council, and the National Skill Development Corporation are the apex bodies involved in the skilling and certification of different cadres of care workers. It is unfortunate that the labour-intensive and emotionally exacting care sector does not command commensurate respect, remuneration, and dignity. This is a crucial area for policy intervention.

The World Economic Forum's report on the 'Future of Care Economy' highlights three perspectives. The first is seeing the care economy as an engine for increasing economic productivity. The second is from a business perspective: organisations can relate to the care economy as investors and employers. The third is from a human rights perspective that focuses on gender equality and disability inclusion.

We need a comprehensive policy that defines the care ecosystem from a life course perspective. A committee of the Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare, Labour and Employment, Social Justice and Empowerment, and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship would be ideal to initiate the process.

Doing this will help increase women's participation in the labour force

Countering an 'anti-Hindu' image

The DMK's antidote to the BJP's Rama cult is Lord Muruga, the god of Tamils

STATE OF PLAY

B. Kolappan
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Has the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government invoked Muruga, the god of Tamils, as an antidote to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s Rama cult? This is the question being asked in Tamil Nadu after certain resolutions were adopted at the just-concluded Muthamizh Murugan International Conference, organised by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department.

The resolutions include holding a competition for students of schools and colleges run by the HR&CE Department on Murugan bhakti literature; and getting students to recite the Kantha Sasti Kavasam, a devotional song on Muruga, during the six-day Kantha Sasti festival.

Muruga, an ancient deity of Tamils since the Sangam period, who was worshipped as Seyon, has become an integral part of Hinduism. He is worshipped as the son of Shiva and Parvathi and the nephew of Vishnu. He is no longer just a Tamil god.

The allies of the DMK, particularly the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi, criticised the conference and the resolutions. Only R. Muthsarasan, the State secretary of the CPI, supported the event, saying it cannot be seen as an affront to secularism. He pointed out that the HR&CE Department had existed since the days of the Justice Party, the predecessor of the Dravidar Kazhagam and other Dravidian parties.

Ever since the DMK came to power and P.K. Sekarbabu, an ardent devotee who regularly visits Sabarimala, was appointed as Minister of HR&CE, the Department began working overtime. The DMK needed a Minister like Mr. Sekarbabu to counter its anti-Hindu and atheist image. This need became all the more urgent after the BJP won the Lok Sabha elections again in 2019, and the number of people flocking to the national party in Tamil Nadu surged. Those who were earlier silent about their faith started becoming more vocal. The DMK also had to keep in mind that its arch rival, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), is a party of believers.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, who had ridiculed certain Hindu customs, also sought to do some damage control by saying that the DMK is not anti-Hindu. "There is no truth to the allegation that this party is anti-Hindu. The BJP, the RSS, and the Hindu Munnani seek to portray the DMK as anti-Hindu. That is not the truth. In fact, there is no temple which is not visited by my wife. Many district secretaries of the DMK sport *kumkumam* on their forehead and we do not criticise their faith," he said, while participating in the Pongal festival in 2021. His argument is supported by the fact that several DMK leaders regularly visit temples and wear their faith on their sleeve. Nowadays, more and more DMK MLAs go to the Assembly sporting religious symbols, which was more common among the AIADMK MLAs.

However, some DMK leaders, such as A. Raja, continue to be critical of Hindu religion and the Sanathana Dharma that is espoused by the BJP. Mr. Stalin's son, Udhayanidhi Stalin, who is the Minister of Youth Welfare and Sports Development, found himself in the midst of a massive controversy last year for his comments on Sanathana Dharma and faces a slew of cases in various States for his remarks.

The DMK, an offshoot of the atheist Dravidar Kazhagam, is having to walk a tightrope between its core ideology and its leaders and supporters who are believers. Earlier, its leaders could castigate Hindu religious faith, among others, and walk away. They can no longer do that, with the emergence of the BJP on the national scene. Ridiculing Hindu gods is no longer tolerated in films and literature: lyricist Vairamuthu, for instance, faced a backlash for his comments in 2018 on Andal, a Vaishnavite minstrel.

A secular government cannot afford to identify itself with any religion. However, as long as the Tamil Nadu government keeps the management and administration of temples under its control through the HR&CE Department, it is obligated to fulfill certain responsibilities. That is why Mr. Stalin and Mr. Udhayanidhi Stalin, despite their personal beliefs, participated in the Conference. The DMK is not the Dravidar Kazhagam. DMK founder C.N. Annadurai had said, '*Ontre Kulam Oruvane Devan* (One community, one god)'. At the end of the day, the DMK is a political party and requires the votes of every section of society.

More female students enter traditional engineering courses

The share of female students in mechanical, civil, mining, and marine engineering undergraduate courses rose notably in the recent decade

DATA POINT

R. Amanda Miriam Fernandez
Nitika Francis
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The number of students enrolled in undergraduate engineering courses in India steadily declined from 2016, despite the increase in the overall number of students pursuing college education, according to the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE). In recent years, the number of students enrolled in India was highest in the arts, science, and commerce streams, followed by engineering. Engineering was also the only discipline in which the number of students enrolled consistently declined between 2016 and 2022. There was a slight uptick in 2022 in enrolment in undergraduate engineering courses, which may have been due to the introduction of several new courses in the survey, which were previously not tracked by AISHE. This bump did not alter the trend, however.

The decline in enrolment in engineering courses was more pronounced among male students than female. **Chart 1** shows the number of male and female students who enrolled for undergraduate engineering courses between FY13 and FY22.

Chart 2 shows the number of female students enrolled in specific undergraduate engineering courses and their share in the overall intake, between FY13 and FY22. In 2013, large numbers of female students took up electronics engineering, computer engineering, and information technology (IT). In computer engineering and information technology, female students comprised more than 45% of all students in 2013. As the decade progressed, the presence of female students in these disciplines dropped by some 10% points each.

However, with a possible sway in societal attitudes and the introduction of new courses, female students started enrolling in disciplines where they were previously had little presence. For instance, in mining engineering, the share of female students was 1.2% in 2013 and increased to 8% in 2022. Similarly, in marine engineering, the share of female students jumped from 1.5% to 6.4%. The share of female students also increased significantly in mechanical engineering and civil engineering, from 4.2% to 7.6% and 18.2% to 23%, respectively, in the same period.

Male students continued to dominate the field of mechanical engineering, with their share declining only slightly from 95.8% in 2013 to 92.4% in 2022. The absolute number of students enrolling in the field dropped significantly though, almost halving from over 10 lakh in 2016 to 5.4 lakh in 2022. On the other hand, there was a drastic increase in the number of male students enrolling in computer engineering courses, from about 3.5 lakh in 2013 to 8.25 lakh in 2023.

Chart 3 shows the share of student enrolments in undergraduate engineering courses from Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs). The share of OBC students who enrolled in these courses steadily rose from 33% in 2013 to 38% in 2022. The share of ST students increased slightly from 2.1% to 3.3% in the same period **(Chart 3)**. Among SC students, the increase was inconsistent. It slightly declined during some years, settling at 11% in 2022 compared with 8.7% in 2013. The share of students from the general category dropped over time.

Mechanical and civil engineering courses seem to have lost their appeal over the years among men, pointing towards a decline in employability, while courses such as computer engineering have continued to draw students.

Inputs from Muhammad Ubaidullah A. L. and Mohamed Althamish N.A.

Defying stereotypes

The data for the charts are sourced from the All India Survey on Higher Education

Chart 1: The number of male and female students who enrolled for undergraduate engineering courses between FY13 and FY22

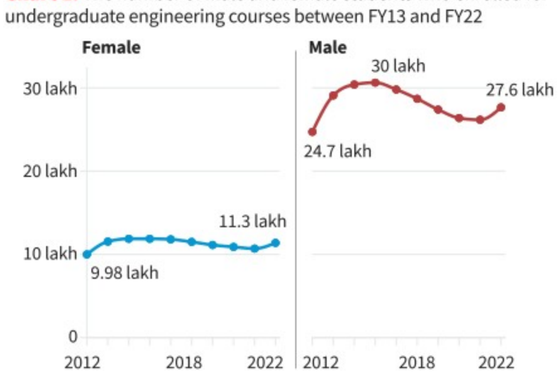


Chart 3: Enrolment share (%) of various communities in undergraduate engineering courses

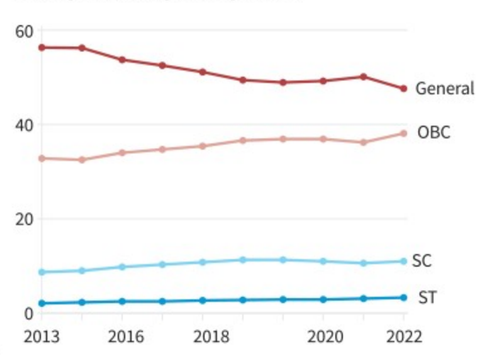
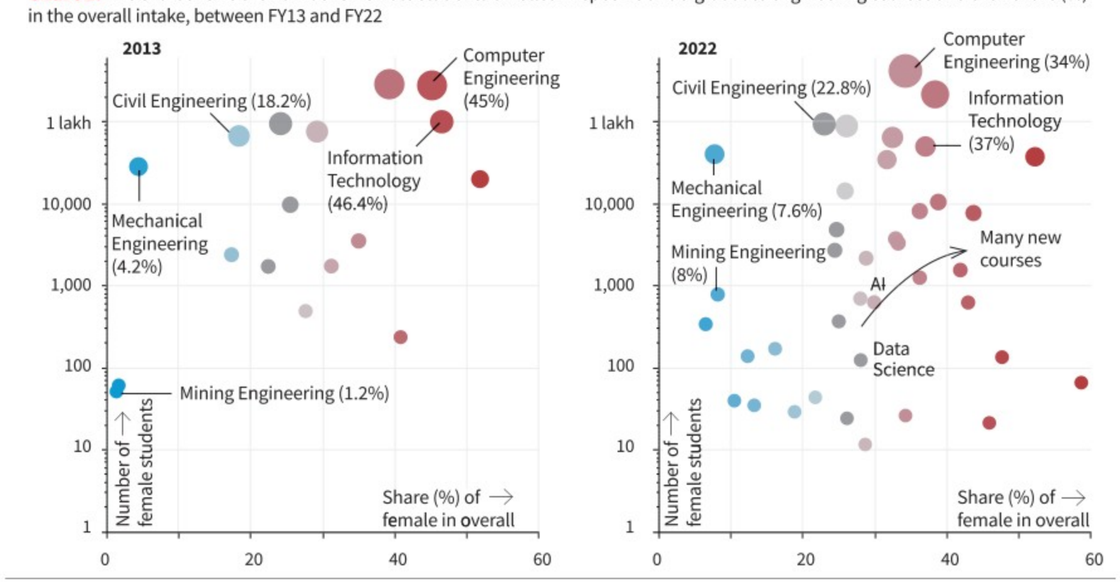


Chart 2: The chart shows the number of female students enrolled in specific undergraduate engineering courses and their share (%) in the overall intake, between FY13 and FY22



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 28, 1974

B.D. Jatti elected with big majority

New Delhi, Aug, 27: The Congress nominee, Mr. B.D. Jatti, was elected Vice-President of India to-day defeating the Opposition candidate, Mr. N.E. Horo, by an overwhelming majority of 521 to 141 votes in a straight contest.

Since the electoral college for electing the Vice-President consisted of only the members of the two Houses of Parliament, the result was announced after a simple count of the votes cast by the 672 MPs who participated in the election.

The present membership of the Lok Sabha is 524 and the Rajya Sabha 243, a total of 767 for both Houses. With five vacancies in the Lok Sabha and three in the Rajya Sabha, the number of MPs entitled to vote in this Vice-Presidential election was 759 out of whom only 672 had actually participated in the polling to-day. The CPI and Muslim League with a combined strength of 44 in the two Houses abstained from voting, while another 43 belonging to different parties did not take part in the polling for various reasons.

Otherwise the voting to-day in the Vice-Presidential election, as was the case in the preceding Presidential election, was more or less on well-defined party lines with no evidence of any cross-voting worth the name. Of the 759 MPs who were entitled to vote in this election, the Congress Party had a strength of nearly 500, which automatically ensured for Mr. Jatti a very comfortable two-third margin.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 28, 1924

A new anti-malarial device

The "Pioneer" writes: Experiments have been proceeding with a new anti-malarial device which takes the form of a mosquito trap. The invention is an ingenious one, depending for its success on the attraction which light has for insects. It consist of a searchlight throwing a broad field of light through an inverted cone with a small hole at the base to which is connected a suction tube. Mosquitoes are attracted by the light and are sucked down the tube by the indraught. Experiments with the trap have given satisfactory results and plans are being made to send some of these devices to Central and West Africa to combat not only mosquitoes but also the tsetse fly which causes sleeping sickness.

From Page One

Protesters and police clash; BJP calls bandh

Urging all government employees to attend office, Mr. Bandyopadhyay said transport services would remain operational, and shops, marketplaces and other business establishments were asked to remain open.

Four Ministers of the West Bengal government, led by Chandrima Bhattacharya, said that since the BJP's plot of "getting dead bodies during the March to Nabanna" did not work as the police had exercised restraint, the party had called for a bandh so that economic activities would be affected.

Tuesday's violence started at Santragachi in Howrah when protesters tried to breach barricades. The situation turned volatile on the Howrah Bridge and at Howrah-Maidan where protesters tried to climb over barricades. The police had fixed guard rails to the ground with cement and in certain areas, used containers to block the mob.

The protesters, which included a number of elderly people and women, regrouped and threw stones at the police. While many were seen with banners and posters seeking justice for the victim, some were carrying the national flag. The police resorted to baton charge and fired tear gas shells to disperse the crowd.

Widespread violence

In Kolkata, violence erupted near Hastings, where the police had set up barricades preventing protesters from taking the Vidyasagar Setu, a bridge across the Hooghly river, to Nabanna. Violence spilled in areas surrounding Howrah Bridge and M. G. Road where the protesters kept regrouping after police tried to disperse them. The confrontation between the police and protesters continued till the evening.

Additional Director General (South Bengal) Supratim Sarkar said the protesters went on "*tandaav* (rampage)" for three hours in an attempt to disrupt normal life and tried to damage public property. Mr. Sarkar said 25 persons were detained overnight and 126 persons, 103 men and 23 women, were arrested on Tuesday.

"Had we not made these preventive arrests, the situation could have been infinitely worse," the police officer said. Mr. Sarkar said police personnel sustained injuries but exercised restraint and did not fall into the "trap" of protesters. Fifteen police personnel were injured, he said.

Actor Mohanlal resigns; AMMA panel dissolved

A new executive committee is expected to be formed within two months after a general body election. However, the existing committee will continue as an ad hoc arrangement to ensure that AMMA's welfare measures for its members are not disrupted.
(with inputs from Thiruvananthapuram Bureau)

SC grants bail to Kavitha, queries probe fairness

"You cannot pick and choose. A person who incriminates himself is a witness... So you pick anyone you choose and leave anyone you choose as an accused," Justice Gavai asked Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju, appearing for the investigative agencies.

But the court's oral comments were not recorded in the formal dictation of the order after Mr. Raju raised the apprehension that they may influence the trial in future.

The top court found it "fantastic" that the Delhi High Court had refused bail to Ms. Kavitha on July 1 for the reason that she was an "educated, sophisticated woman".

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, for Ms. Kavitha, argued she had already spent five months in jail as an undertrial.

Mr. Rohatgi argued that the only evidence against Ms. Kavitha, the daughter of former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, was statements given by accused-turned-approvers.

"After they turned approvers, they changed their statements to say Kejriwal, Sisodia, Kavitha are all kingpins..." Mr. Rohatgi submitted.

Setting aside the Delhi High Court's dismissal of her bail, the Supreme Court ordered the BRS leader to be released forthwith in both the ED and CBI cases forthwith after furnishing bail bonds of ₹10 lakh in each of the two cases.

The court laid down conditions for bail, including that she would regularly attend the trial, and cooperate with the expeditious disposal of the case. Further, the top court cautioned her against tampering with the evidence or trying to influence the witnesses.

Several BRS leaders, including working president K.T. Rama Rao, welcomed the court's decision, remarking that justice had prevailed.

Top court stays AYUSH Ministry's notification

The court directed Dr. Asokan's counsel, senior advocate P.S. Patwalia, to file on record a copy of the relevant page of each of the 20 editions of *The Hindu* in which the apology was published for perusal of the Court in a week.

New task force on hospital safety gets 400 suggestions

The committee formed by the Supreme Court will have wider consultations on the safety of medical professionals soon; States requested to provide information on security measures taken

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The first meeting of the National Task Force (NTF), set up to ensure the safety of medical professionals at the workplace in accordance with directions of the Supreme Court, was held on Tuesday. The members said they had been approached directly by various stakeholders and received 300 to 400 suggestions.

A national portal – created by the Health Ministry to receive suggestions from stakeholders – became operational on Tuesday. According to the Ministry, suggestions from major stakeholders and those received on the portal would be collated for further consideration of NTF members.

"Secretary (Health), along with NTF members, will have wider consultations with various major stakeholders. States have also been requested to provide information on the security measures available in medical institutions in the State," the Ministry said.

It added that a meeting will be held on Wednesday with State Chief Secretaries and other senior officials to discuss short-term measures regarding the security of medical professionals.

Students stage a protest against the rape-murder of a resident doctor at a Kolkata medical college, in Bengaluru on Monday. ANI

Safety concerns

Earlier, representatives of the Federation of Resident Doctors Association (FORDA), Indian Medical Association (IMA) and Resident Doctors' Associations of Governmental Medical Colleges & Hospitals of Delhi had a series of meetings with the Union Health Ministry in the aftermath of the rape and murder of a resident doctor in R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

The associations had put forth their demands regarding concerns over the safety and security of healthcare workers at the workplace.

"The Health Ministry had then assured them of all possible efforts to ensure the security of healthcare professionals. The representatives of all the Associations were informed that the government is aware of the situation and is sensitive to their demands. It was also observed that 26 States have already passed the legislation for protection of healthcare workers in their respective States,'' the Ministry said.

BJP condemns police action against protest by Kolkata students

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

BJP calls Mamata a 'dictator', accusing her of shielding the perpetrators of the heinous crime

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday condemned the police action against students protesting in Kolkata demanding justice in the case involving the rape and murder of a doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital. Calling West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee a "dictator", the party accused her of shielding the perpetrators of the heinous crime.

"The images of police high-handedness from Kolkata have angered every person who values democratic principles. In Didi's West Bengal, to help rapists and criminals is valued but it is a crime to speak for women's safety," BJP president J.P. Nadda posted on X.

Speaking at a press conference, BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said Constitutional institutions, including the Supreme Court, the Kolkata High Court, and the West Bengal Governor, had made serious remarks on the lax functioning of the government in the State. The High Court had said the State machinery had failed. He said the Chief Minister should side with the peaceful protesters who were asking for justice in accordance with the Constitution rather than "shielding and protecting perpetrators of crime just because they have affiliation" with the Trinamool Congress.

The BJP has also demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into an alleged 'Hi-tech Defence and Aerospace Park' scam in the allocation of five acres of land to a trust purportedly run by the family of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in Karnataka.

Kolkata protests take a political turn, become a turf war between BJP and the Trinamool

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Eighteen days after the rape and murder of a doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, the protests for justice took a political turn as the BJP called for a 12-hour bandh in the State on Wednesday following violence during a protest march to the State Secretariat on Tuesday.

Doctors and social activists who have been taking to the streets demanding justice, said they felt "cheated" as the protest had become a turf war between the Opposition BJP and the ruling Trinamool Congress.

"It is very upsetting in the sense that where was all this police [deployed to stop the marchers] when we needed them? I think we have managed to keep the movement apolitical, even after this [march]. People are looking up to us, it's hard to maintain this but let's see," Hassan Mushtaq, a protesting doctor the R.G. Kar Hospital, told *The Hindu*.

During the build-up to the march, the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front (WBJDF) put out an official statement on Monday and distanced itself from it. "We have heard about the August 27 rally from media outlets. We, the people of WBJDF, want to clarify that this rally is not organised or called by us. We are not participating in this rally in any form," it said.

Within hours of the clashes, the BJP State unit shared a post on its X handle writing, "Mamata Banerjee, do you think deploying your police force can silence West Bengal's students? Thousands are marching to Nabanna demanding justice, yet you use police to harass peaceful protestors. Where was this police force when rapes and brutal crimes were happening?"

The police fire tear-gas shells to disperse demonstrators protesting against the rape-murder of a doctor in Kolkata on Tuesday. AP

BJP State president Sukanta Majumdar slammed the police action on the protesters. "Why did police use force on unarmed and peaceful protesters? Even old people and women were not spared," he said. Mr. Majumdar said many students complained that police used water laced with chemicals on them. He shared a helpline number for medical and legal aid for the protesting students. The BJP took to the streets in the evening and sat in a demonstration near Lalbazar, the Kolkata Police headquarters, demanding release of the detained protesters.

Calling the march "a plot", Trinamool Congress leader Kunal Ghosh said, "People cannot randomly go and tour Nabanna, it is the State Secretariat."

Additional Director-General (South Bengal), West Bengal Police, Supratim Sarkar saw the hand of external forces behind the protest. "No true students of West Bengal would ever do such vandalism in the name of protests. There were other forces behind it," he said.

Analysts said the protests might have been organised with political backing. Biswanath Chakraborty, a Professor of political science at Rabindra Bharati University, said the protest may have been covertly organised by the BJP. "Common people will still stay on the roads protesting for the victim," he said.

Satish Kumar

Satish Kumar named new Chairman of Railway Board

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of Satish Kumar as the Chairman and CEO of Railway Board on Tuesday.

Mr. Kumar will assume charge from September 1, till the date of his superannuation and his re-employment on a contract basis, from January 1 till August 31, 2025, said the DoPT notification.

After phone call with Biden, Modi discusses Ukraine trip with Putin

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Three days after his return from Ukraine, and a day after he "briefed" U.S. President Joseph Biden about his visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin and "shared insights" from his trip to Kyiv where he met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. According to a Kremlin readout, Mr. Modi also confirmed his participation at the BRICS summit to be hosted by Mr. Putin in the Russian city of Kazan from October 22 to 24.

Mr. Modi's recent travel to Moscow and Kyiv, and calls with Mr. Putin and Mr. Biden, have raised speculation that New Delhi is working on a peace initiative that would bring the Russian and Ukrainian leaders together for talks, but the government has not so far confirmed it.

"The two leaders exchanged views on the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. Prime Minister [Modi] shared insights from his recent visit to Ukraine," the Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday about Mr. Modi's discussions with Mr. Putin. "[Mr. Modi] underlined the importance of dialogue and diplomacy as well as sincere and practical engagement between all stakeholders to achieve an abiding and peaceful resolution of the conflict," it added.

The readout made no specific mention of Russia's large-scale assault on Ukraine on Monday, in which it rained approximately 200 missiles and drones on targets from Kyiv to Odesa, one of the largest such coordinated attacks during the war, which Washington condemned.

In its statement, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that Mr. Modi had "informed [Mr. Putin] about his recent visit to Kiev [Kyiv], and stressed his commitment to bringing about a settlement for Ukraine by political and diplomatic means".

It said Mr. Putin had shared his "principled assessment of the destructive policies of the Kiev [Kyiv] authorities and their Western patrons, and went on to highlight Russia's approaches to resolving this conflict", adding that the two leaders had discussed implementing the new economic agreements signed by India and Russia in July.

Narendra Modi's recent travel to Moscow and Kyiv have raised speculation that New Delhi is working on a peace initiative. REUTERS

Meanwhile, the U.S. White House released its readout of the call between Mr. Modi and Mr. Biden on Monday, and said that Mr. Biden had "commended" Mr. Modi for his "historic visits to Poland and Ukraine, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in decades, and for his message of peace and ongoing humanitarian support for Ukraine, including its energy sector." While the White House readout made no mention of a peace proposal by India, it said both leaders had affirmed their support for a peaceful resolution to the conflict on the basis of international law and the UN charter.

Ministry officials have declined to comment explicitly on whether India is playing mediator between Moscow and Kyiv.

Himachal makes 21 the minimum age of marriage for women

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

The Himachal Pradesh Assembly on Tuesday passed a Bill increasing the minimum age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 in order to support gender equality and higher education.

The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Himachal Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2024, was introduced by Women Empowerment Minister Dhani Ram Shandil in the Assembly during its ongoing Monsoon Session. The Bill was passed by a voice vote.

The Bill states the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 was enacted to prohibit solemnisation of child marriage and matters related to it.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu told *The Hindu* the Bill clearly showed the intent of the Congress government to focus on serving the best interests of women. "We are the first State in the country to enact the legislation. The Congress has always been at the forefront to work towards the betterment of women," he said.

APPEAL

9 years old Veera Sabarish suffering from B cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia requires Chemotherapy and Radiation at **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research** Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is Rs.8,00,000/-. His family is very poor and cannot afford this huge cost. Please help him to have a bright future. Donations sent by Ch/DD favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C. No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13. N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/7338978027. E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com**. Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

WWS

BJP names 29 more candidates for J&K polls

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The BJP on Tuesday named 29 more candidates for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election, taking to 45 the number of seats for which it has announced its nominees.

The party has fielded Devender Singh Rana from Nagrota and named Satish Sharma as its candidate from Billawar, which was won by former Deputy Chief Minister Nirmal Singh in the 2014 election.

The BJP has made one change from the now-rescinded list, which was put out on Monday, as it has named Baldev Raj Sharma from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi seat in place of Rohit Dubey. All other names are same for the same set of constituencies in the list announced on Monday before being withdrawn. The latest list has 10 candidates for the second phase of polls and 19 for the third phase. It has not named a nominee for Nowshera.
(With PTI inputs)

In U-turn, Omar decides to contest polls from Ganderbal

NC vice-president had earlier vowed not to contest Assembly election till restoration of Statehood; he says the seat-sharing arrangement with Congress is to take on the BJP as a consolidated front

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The seat-sharing between the National Conference (NC) and the Congress has been done with the aim of taking on the BJP as a consolidated front in the Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), NC vice-president Omar Abdullah said on Tuesday.

Making a U-turn from his earlier stated position that he would not contest the election until Statehood is restored to J&K, the party included his name on the list of 32 candidates.

Mr. Abdullah will contest the Ganderbal seat, which he represented from 2009 to 2014 when he was the Chief Minister of the NC-Congress coalition government.

Speaking to presspersons at Bijbehara, Mr. Abdullah said, "The seat-sharing agreement with the Congress has been done.

Major decision: National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah after filing the nomination papers on Tuesday. IMRAN NISSAR

The effort was to raise a consolidated front against the BJP and its supporting parties and contest election against them and increase the chances of success further."

'Good decision'

Speaking about the alliance with the Congress, National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah said in a coalition, the constituents had to accommodate each other so that they can form a government that will address people's problems.

"We believe that the final decision taken by the coalition was a very good one. God willing, the coalition will be successful and will form the government here which will try to address the problems faced by the people," NC chief told presspersons in Awantipora of Pulwama district.

The Assembly polls are being held in J&K after a gap of 10 years and for the first time since abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. Tuesday was the last day of filing nominations for the 24 seats that go to the polls in the first phase on September 18.

The second phase of polling is on September 25 and the last phase is on October 1.

Counting will take place on October 4.

The Congress also announced nine candidates including two former Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chiefs, Ghulam Ahmad Mir and Vikar Rasool Wani. Mr. Mir, who is contesting the Dooru Assembly seat in Anantnag district, filed his nomination.

He said parties that were part of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance but did not join the Congress-NC alliance may not be willing to fight the BJP.
(With PTI inputs)

Ex-members of banned Jamaat file papers

Press Trust of India
SRINAGAR

Several former members of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami J&K on Tuesday filed nomination papers to contest the Assembly polls as Independent candidates.

Sugra Barkati, daughter of jailed separatist worker Sarjan Barkati, also filed papers on behalf of her father. While Jamaat cannot take part in the elections due to the ban imposed on it by the Home Ministry, it had shown interest in participating in the polls during the Lok Sabha elections if the ban were removed. It has not taken part in any polls after 1987 and had been a part of separatist amalgam Hurriyat Conference, which advocated for poll boycotts from 1993 to 2003.

"In view of the prevalent geopolitical scenario, I felt that time had come for us to take part in the political process," Talat Majeed, former ameer of Jamaat, said. He filed his papers from Pulwama.

INBRIEF

Devendra Prasad Yadav joins Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj

Devendra Prasad Yadav, veteran socialist leader and former Rahstriya Janata Dal MP, on Tuesday joined Jan Suraaj, a political organisation in Bihar spearheaded by former election-strategist-cum-political activist Prashant Kishor. Jan Suraaj is likely to be a formed as a party on October 2 in Patna. Mr. Kishor had earlier announced that Jan Suraaj would contest all 243 seats in Bihar in the Assembly election scheduled to be held in October- November 2025.

Court orders release of Shabir Shah in terror funding case

A Delhi court on Tuesday ordered the release of Kashmiri separatist Shabir Shah, accused in a money laundering case related to alleged terror funding in Jammu and Kashmir. Mr. Shah will continue to remain in jail in two other cases lodged against him by the NIA and the ED. Noting that Mr. Shah has already undergone incarnation of seven years which is the maximum punishment for the offence he is accused of, the court ordered his release on Tuesday.

Joining hands: JJP chief Dushyant Chautala and ASP chief Chandra Shekhar Azad in New Delhi on Tuesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

JJP forges alliance with Azad's ASP for Haryana elections

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the coming Assembly election, the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) and Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) on Tuesday announced the decision to forge a pre-poll alliance in Haryana.

Speaking to presspersons here, JJP chief Dushyant Chautala, a former ally of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the State, said the alliance will be guided by the vision of the State's tallest Jat leader and his great grandfather, Chaudhary Devi Lal, and Dalit icon Kanshi Ram. "With this alliance, we'll take Haryana forward," the former Deputy Chief Minister said.

The elections to the 90-member Haryana Assembly will be held on October 1. After the previous Assembly election, the BJP had formed the government in the State with the support of the 10 JJP MLAS.

With a 70-20 seat share for the JJP and the ASP, respectively, the parties are eyeing "the poor, farmers, local shop owners, women, and younger generations," ASP chief Chandra Shekhar Aazad said.

At meeting, Mayawati re-elected BSP president unanimously

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Mayawati has been unanimously re-elected the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) national president at a special meeting here on Tuesday. Akash Anand, BSP's national coordinator and Ms. Mayawati's nephew, was given responsibilities in poll-bound States.

Ms. Mayawati thanked the party for giving her responsibility, and added that despite recent electoral defeats, the BSP is pursuing the goal of '*Bahujan Hitaye and Bahujan Sukhaye*'.

"I am once again unanimously elected as the national president of the BSP and I also thank from my heart all the people who congratulated me from every corner of the country for this. We are ready to make any sacrifice for the humanitarian mission of Dalit, tribal and OBC communities, through the BSP movement," she said.

The event was attended by the BSP central executive committee, senior office-bearers and representatives from across the country, a statement said.

Have decided to trust Modi and join BJP, says Champai Soren

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Champai Soren, former Chief Minister of Jharkhand, announced on Tuesday that he has placed his "trust in Prime Minister Narendra Modi" and decided to join the BJP.

The announcement puts an end to days of speculation about the move. Mr. Champai, who is still an MLA of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, is yet to quit his Cabinet post.

Late on Monday, Himanta Biswa Sarma, BJP's Jharkhand election co-incharge and Assam Chief Minister, had announced that Mr. Champai would join the BJP on Friday.

Talking to presspersons in Delhi on Tuesday, Mr. Champai said, "The situation of Jharkhand is totally different now and after thinking deeply, I have decided to trust Modi *ji* and my trust on Amit Shah too has increased. Therefore, I have decided to join the BJP. My struggle for Jharkhand is as clear as a mirror and I do not pay attention to what others say about me."

Manjhi targets NC-Congress alliance

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi on Tuesday targeted the National Conference-Congress alliance in J&K. He said if the two parties form the government in the Union Territory, they will "merge Kashmir with Pakistan". He said they wanted to reintroduce Article 370 in J&K.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, DHENKANAL (R&B) CIRCLE, DHENKANAL
Corrigendum to Bid identification No. C.C.E.DKL.(R&B)04/2024-25
Letter No.1701 /Dtd. 23/08/2024
The Bids invited vide Bid Identification No.C.C.E. DKL (R&B) 04/2024-25 vide letter No.1661 dt.17.08.2024 has been modified are as follows.
1.The Bid document for the above notice will be available in the website: **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** from **Dt.04.09.2024 to 5.00 PM of Dt.18.09.2024** for online bidding and shall be opened at **11.30 AM on Dt.19.09.2024.**
All other terms and conditions of the above tender call notice will remain unchanged.
C.E., Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal
B-196: OIPR - 34132/11/0007/2425

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI
NOTIFICATION
Ref: Roc.No.TTD-32021(31)/2/2020-HOT-TTD DT:27.08.2024
TTD (Tirumala Tirupati Devathanams) desire to allow the best quality Packaged drinking water to the visiting piligrims to Tirumala. Interested Parties can submit their proposals for supply of Water in non-plastic containers / bottles at reasonable price to mail-ID ttdhealthoffice@gmail.com or physically to Dy.E.O. (Health) For any clarifications, **Please Contact No.: 9849905789**
TTD-40021(31)/1/2024-PRO SEC (Adv. No.126) Dated: 27.08.2024 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : e-Tender No 27 to 30/2024-25/ SE/PHC/ALP/ RC KIIFB Kuttanad Package 5,6,7,9, **EMD** : Rs. 1,00,000 to 5,00,000, **Tender fee** : Rs. 9,759 to 19,518, **Last Date for submitting Tender** : 12-09-2024 02:00:pm, **Phone** : 0477-2237954, **Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-511-2024-25 **PH circle, Alappuzha**

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
E-TENDER NOTICE
MSETCL invites online bids (E-Tender) for following

S.N.	Tender No. & Description
1	RFx No. 7000033030; SUPPLY & ETC FOR REPLACEMENT OF 2NOS. EXISTING MOCB DC BREAKER WITH SF6 DC BREAKER AT HVDC TERMINAL, EMD Rs.23,12,092/- and Tender Fees: Rs.25,000/-

Tenders Available at: https://srmetender.mahatransco.in; Due date for online submission upto:04.09.2024 15:00Hrs Hrs; Tender Opening 04.09.2024 16:00 Hrs Hrs if possible. **-sd-**
Chief Engineer EHV PC O&M Zone Nagpur.

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, MESCOM Bhavana, Bejai, Mangaluru-575 004
Phone: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425
No: MESCOM/SEE(Proj)/EE(IT)/2024-25/816 Date: 27.08.2024
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement Mode Only)
MESCOM Invites tenders for **"Providing Pre-Paid Smart Meters for Temporary installations and other category of consumers opting for Smart Meters in MESCOM jurisdiction."** vide Bid enquiry nos. MESCOM/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT242.
The interested eligible bidders may log on to **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **28.08.2024**
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele) (Projects), Corporate Office
DIPR/MNG/501/MPL/24-25
For Power Related Complaints and Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)
SRM e-Tender No. T-2448/MSETCL/CO/ Projects/Pre-Tender 2nd call (RFx No. 6000001224)
MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.
"Establishment of 132/33 kV Fulsawangi Substation Dist. Yavatmal along with associated transmission line under Amravati zone, MSETCL, Maharashtra."
Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website. https://srmetender. mahatransco.in
The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 21.08.2024.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

TAMIL NADU ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(A Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking)
4th floor, LLA Building. No.735, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 002 Email: ridc2005@yahoo.co.in
Chennai Peripheral Ring Road Project - e-Tender Notice
Tender Notice No: 03/IOCT/CPRR Section-3/EPC-04/2024 Dated: 23.08.2024
1) The Executive Director, TNRIDC for and on behalf of Governor of State of Tamil Nadu invites tender in online on IOCT Method, for the following work

Package No	Name of Work	Tender Security	Tender Fee
EPC 04	Formation of New Six lane road from Vengathur (Design Chainage: Ch **58+200**) to Sengadu (Design Chainage: Ch **68+200**) with paved shoulders and two lane service road on both sides in Section-III of Chennai Peripheral Ring Road Project under Package- **EPC 04** on Engineering, Procurement and Construction **(EPC)** Mode including maintenance for **7** years.	INR **46.00** million or an equivalent amount in convertible foreign currency	INR **30,000/-** or an equivalent amount in foreign currency

2) The tender document will be available online for free download in the e-procurement portal (website), **https://tntenders.gov.in** from **05.09.2024**, **11.00 Hours (IST)** onwards.
3) Pre-tender meeting will be held on **18.09.2024**, **11.00 Hours (IST)**. Kindly refer the invitation for tender uploaded in **https://tntenders.gov.in** for further details.
4) Deadline for online submission of tender: on or before **11.00 Hours (IST)** on **23.10.2024.**
5) Online Technical tender opening is scheduled at **11.30 Hours (IST)** on **23.10.2024.**
6) All Tender submission must be accompanied by a non-refundable Tender fee of **Rs.30,000/-** (Rupees Thirty Thousand only) (INR) (inclusive of tax). The method of payment shall be online in the eProcurement Portal **https://tntenders.gov.in** only.
7) All tender submission must be accompanied by a tender security for an amount as mentioned in the table. The method of payment shall be online in the eProcurement Portal **https://tntenders.gov.in** only.
8) Further Addendum, if any, in this regard will be available only in the e-procurement portal **https://tntenders.gov.in**
Sd/-
Executive Director (FAC)
DIPR / 3266 / Tender / 2024 Tamil Nadu Road Infrastructure Development Corporation

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471 - 2564568 / 5669 / 4537)
ई-निविदा की अवधि बढ़ाना / EXTENSION OF E-TENDER दिनांक/Date : 27-08-2024
इसरो कर्मचारी क्वार्टर्स, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में तरण ताल का निर्माण (सिविल तथा इलेक्ट्रोमैकानिकाल कार्य) / Construction of Swimming Pool at ISRO Staff Quarters, VSSC, Thumba (Civil & Electromechanical works),
NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/10/2024-25 Dt. 12.07.2024

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि/Period for downloading	दिनांक **03.09.2024** को **23:00** बजे तक बढ़ाए गए/Extended upto **23:00** hrs. on **03.09.2024**
निविदाओं की प्राप्ति / Receipt of tenders	दिनांक **09.09.2024** को **23:00** बजे तक बढ़ाए गए/Extended upto **23:00** hrs. on **09.09.2024**

योग्यता मानदंड तथा अन्य ब्यौरों को पाने के लिए इच्छुक निविदाकार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए विस्तृत सूचना (ई-एनआइटी) का अवलोकन करें, जिसे www.tenderwizard.in/ISRO से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है।/ Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.in/ISRO.
Sd/- ग्रुप निदेशक, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी / Group Director, CMG, VSSC

Jalgaon City Municipal Corporation, Jalgaon
Sanitation Department
E-Tender Notice No.04/2024-25
Reference Number :- Outward No.JCMC/Sanitation/543/2024-2025, Date. 05/08/2024
Inviting E-tender From Registered Institute or Company/Agency for Work of 1.House to House Collection of Municipal Solid Waste (Dry & Wet Separately) up to Processing Plant Via Secondary Transfer Collection Centre. 2.Supply of 500 Labors for Daily Road Sweeping, Drain Cleaning etc. for 3 years Period at Jalgaon City Municipal Corporation Jalgaon Area. All Information and Details of Tender, Like Tender Form Fee, Tender Cost, EMD, Time Schedule etc available on website www.mahaetenders.gov.in
Sd/-
Commissioner
Jalgaon City Municipal Corporation, Jalgaon

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-17/405/2024-25 Date: 26.08.2024
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
Turnkey Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate Financial resources, State of the Art Technology, Suitable Construction Equipments, Technical man power & Sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:
Name of the Work: Establishment, Construction and Commissioning of 600 KLD Common Effluent Treatment Plant with ZLD facilities on Turnkey Basis including operation and maintenance of entire system for 05 years at Baikampadi Industrial Area, Dakshina Kannada District. **(2nd Call).**
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **13.09.2024** upto **4.30 pm.**
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/1671/Zen/2024-25

INBRIEF

Cheetah dies in Kuno park from suspected 'drowning'

One more cheetah, Pavan, has died, forest officials from Madhya Pradesh confirmed on Tuesday. This is the eighth cheetah, part of the 20 brought from South Africa and Namibia, to have died in India. While cheetahs have died from a variety of causes, the latest is an unusual instance of an animal dying from 'drowning.' "...Male cheetah Pawan was found lying near the edge of a *nalah* [drain] amidst bushes without any movement. Vets were informed and on closer inspection, it was found that the front half of the body including head was inside the water," said a press note from forest officials.

Heavy rain continues to lash Gujarat; IMD issues red alert

Heavy downpour continued to batter Gujarat on Tuesday. Around 15 people have died in rain related incidents since Sunday while more than 23,000 people have been shifted to safety. While 2,000 were rescued or evacuated by different agencies from the affected districts, 11 persons are missing in rain related accidents across the State. The Centre on Tuesday allotted six columns of the Army which have been deployed in the worst affected districts of Vadodara, Kheda, Anand, Morbi, Devbhumi Dwarka, and Rajkot. Several districts received record breaking rainfall on Tuesday with India Meteorological Department (IMD) issuing red alert for as many as 28 districts for the next two days.

Minister to hold meeting with trade unions today

Centre leaves out INTUC and TUCC from the meet; it may discuss implementation of the ELI, UPS; however, unions have decided to oppose those discussions; Labour Codes may also be on agenda

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has invited all Central trade unions (CTUs) for an "introductory meeting" on Wednesday, in which issues such as the implementation of the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) announced in the Union Budget and the implementation of the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) are likely to come up.

Ten unions in the Opposition camp have sent a letter to Mr. Mandaviya objecting to the Centre's decision not to invite the Congress-backed Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) and the Trade Union Coordination Centre (TUCC) of the All India Forward Bloc for the meeting.

The unions have also decided to oppose any discussions on the ELI and the UPS in the meeting.

Union members under the banner of the All India Railwaymen's Federation stage a protest for the restoration of the OPS. FILE PHOTO

'Never discussed'

Talking to *The Hindu*, senior trade union leader Amarjeet Kaur said the ELI scheme was never discussed with the trade unions.

"The Centre has announced it in the Budget without any discussion. So we do not know why the Labour Minister wants to discuss a scheme that has already been implemented," Ms. Kaur said adding that the decision not to invite INTUC and TUCC is a continuation of the unilateral behaviour the Centre has been showing.

Mr. Mandaviya had started meeting the trade unions after taking over charge of the Labour Ministry. It is for the first time that he has convened a meeting of all trade unions. He is also keen to get the consent of unions on implementing the four Labour Codes. The announcement of the UPS had also invited criticism from the unions. They, including the Sangh Parivar's trade union Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), has raised doubts over the continuation of contribution from the government employees under the UPS too.

The INTUC, protesting the Centre's stand of leaving it out from the meetings, said it will try to forge unity among all trade unions on issues such as UPS and restoration of the old pension scheme.

"The Centre has been claiming that India is becoming an economic world power. If that is the case, why the Centre needs a contribution from poor employees to give them pension," INTUC national vice-president R. Chandrasekharan asked.

Mr. Chandrasekharan said the UPS was neither discussed in Parliament nor with trade unions, and the unions had opposed it. "There are certain nuances such as increasing the minimum pension or assuring 50% of the basic as pension which some of us may approve. But the fact that UPS is still a contributory pension scheme will not be approved by any employee," he said adding that pension is a right for an employee who rendered his or her service for the development of the country and pension acts as a security at the time of old age. "All social supportive systems are purposefully dismantled by this government. Their concept of economic policy is totally anti-labour," he said.

IIL, Australian varsity develop needle-free COVID-19 vaccine

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Hyderabad-headquartered vaccine manufacturer Indian Immunologicals Ltd (IIL), in partnership with Griffith University, Australia has developed a needle-free intranasal booster vaccine against SARS-CoV-2, a press release from the company has said.

The company said the live-attenuated booster has been developed using "codon de-optimisation" technology. Its work on this vaccine has been published in the science journal *Nature Communications*.

According to the press release, codon de-optimisation involves decreasing the frequency of under-represented codon pairs (genetic determinants for amino acids) without changing the amino acid sequences. This method, the release said, is an efficient virus attenuation strategy, where the degree of attenuation can be regulated as required. It is extremely safe and takes less time than the conventional way of attenuating viruses, which usually takes several years, the release said.

K. Anand Kumar, managing director, Indian Immunologicals Ltd., said, **'This method is extremely safe and takes less time than conventional way of attenuating viruses'**

"This accomplishment signifies a major step forward in our battle against COVID-19. We are enthusiastic about the codon de-optimisation technology, and its use in targeted attenuation of microorganisms to be used as vaccine candidates."

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda told the Lok Sabha earlier this month that two strains, namely KP.1 and KP.2, were responsible for the recent surge in COVID-19 cases in India.

He said these strains evolved from the JN1 Omicron variant and were highly transmissible, and while there has been no associated increase in hospitalisations or severe cases reported thus far, both strains are being monitored.

As of December 2023, a total of 220.67 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered across the country. However, only 22.88 crore precautionary or booster doses have been administered across the country among the eligible adult population.

CDSCO grants approval for making RT-PCR testing kits to detect Mpox in India

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has granted approval to Siemens Healthineers for the manufacture of RT-PCR testing kits for detection of Mpox, a senior Health Ministry official said on Tuesday.

The kits will be manufactured by the company's molecular diagnostics manufacturing unit in Vadodara, with a production capacity of one million a year.

With the RT-PCR kits, the test results will be available in 40 minutes, which is significantly faster than traditional methods. This will help reduce the turnaround time for reporting, leading to quicker responses, the company said.

The Union Health Ministry said the approval for the testing kit was given last week.

"The IMDX Monkeypox Detection RT-PCR Assay is a molecular diagnostic test that targets two distinct regions in the viral genome, spanning both clade I and clade II variants of the virus. This ensures thorough detection across various viral strains, providing comprehensive results. This assay is platform-agnostic and seamlessly fits into existing lab workflows with standard PCR setups, eliminating the need for new instruments. The ability to use existing COVID testing infrastructure would enhance the efficiency," Hariharan Subramanian, managing director, Siemens Healthcare, said.

"By providing India with advanced assay kits tailored to combat Mpox, we are taking a proactive stance in battling this disease and prioritising prompt and precise detection that can truly make a difference in saving lives," he added.

Clinically validated by the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Virology, Pune, the assay boasts 100% sensitivity and specificity.

The Union Health Ministry said the approval for the kit was given last week.

'India-Brazil strategic partnership deepened and diversified over years'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The India-Brazil strategic partnership has "deepened and diversified" over the years and now spans a very wide range of domains, including defence, space, security, technology and people-to-people relations, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Tuesday.

In his opening remarks at the ninth India-Brazil Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) in Delhi, Mr. Jaishankar congratulated the Latin American country for conducting the G-20 meetings successfully and, also on the first Ministerial consensus document released during a key meeting.

"I would like to reiterate India's full support to the Brazilian G-20 presidency and also recall that we got your fullest support during our own presidency. We appreciate various unique initiatives centred on the theme of building a just world and a sustainable planet," he said.

Close partners: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira, who arrived here on August 25, said in his opening remarks that President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva will be glad to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the G-20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro in November.

Brazil is currently the chair of the influential bloc. The G-20 presidency was relayed to Brazil by India last year.

Mr. Jaishankar, in his address, welcomed his Brazilian counterpart and the delegation and said he looks forward to a "very productive Joint Commission Meeting".

"Our strategic partnership, which was established in 2006, has deepened and diversified over the years," he said. India and Brazil have a "substantial bilateral trade basket" and it has by and large gone up, adding that in the last year, "we have had some challenges" and that is something he looks forward to discuss with Mr. Vieira, he said.

Mr. Vieira said Brazil and India, as "vibrant and multi-ethnic democracies" from the developing world, represent a "positive drive" to international affairs. "Both our governments work towards achieving sustainable development and prosperity for our societies. We hold a common view on many pressing issues on the global agenda," he said.

SGPC sends legal notice to producers of *Emergency*

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), the body responsible for the management of historical gurdwaras, has sent a legal notice to the producers of actor-turned-politician Kangana Ranaut's upcoming movie, *Emergency,* alleging misrepresentation of the history of Sikhs, and has demanded the removal of objectionable scenes that it asserted have hurt Sikh sentiments.

A public interest litigation petition was filed seeking a revocation of the certificate of the movie for its public release.

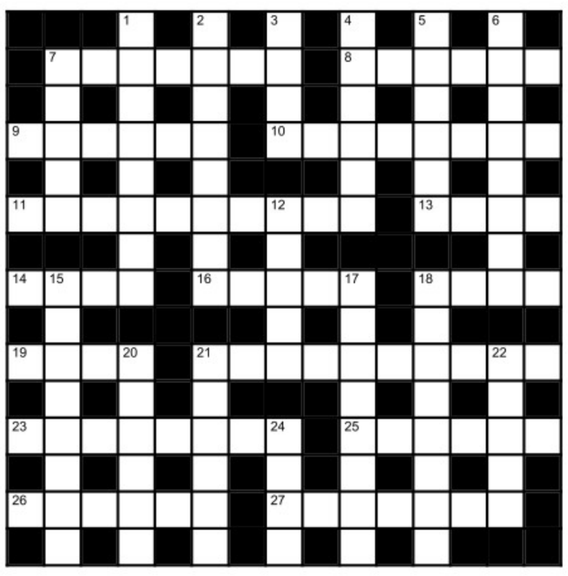
In the notice, the producers of the movie have been asked to seek an apology from the Sikh community.

TH CROSSWORD + 14265

(set by Saral)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Refuse to assume position? That's stupidity (7)
8 Staff bringing back grain for animal (6)
9 Abandon wasteland (6)
10 Record by one medic about plague, say (8)
11 Loyalty, for example in partnership (10)
13 Carry short tribal emblem (4)
14 From the beginning jokingly express sarcastic thoughts (4)
16 Times carrying insignificant post on social media (5)
18 Browse online - mostly accurate and fine (4)
19 Opening of competition without introduction (4)
21 Shout following others against a union eatery (10)
23 Engineer searches estates (8)
25 Guards covering royal courses (6)
26 Zambians initially playing their instrument (6)
27 Government official in predicament over operations primarily (7)

Down

1 It's shocking. Corrupt enticed, trapped nationalist (8)
2 Firm headed by Indian director is coming up in region (8)
3 Often they opted for publicity (4)
4 Aspire crazily for compliment (6)
5 Missing dancing beats, tunes essentially (6)
6 Disturbing letters from assassin is terrifying (8)
7 Settle daughter properly (5)
12 State presses demands (5)
15 Critical examination of six geese is arranged (8)
17 Miscreants' property and gold seized at first (8)
18 Doctors and force aboard ship (8)
20 Tap with epee's tip to acknowledge hit in fencing (6)
21 Saint taking time for turning prayer beads (6)
22 Notice institute checking near the bottom (5)
24 Take out a piece of nut from refreshment bag (4)

SUDOKU

		3		2		7		
4							3	
1	8	2			3		9	
			4					5
		1	8		5	3		
5					2			
	1		2			6	5	7
	2							8
		8		7		9		

No.SS6264 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

R	A	P	P	O	R	T	■	B	A	N	A	N	A	S
E	■	E	■	R	■	O	■	O	■	E	■	E	■	H
D	A	T	E	D	■	W	H	O	L	E	S	O	M	E
H	■	A	■	I	■	E	■	K	■	D	■	P	■	R
A	T	L	O	N	G	L	A	S	T	■	D	H	A	L
T	■	S	■	A	■	■	■	T	■	B	■	Y	■	O
■	■	■	■	N	E	C	R	O	M	A	N	T	I	C
I	■	A	■	C	■	E	■	R	■	R	■	E	■	K
S	E	C	R	E	T	A	G	E	N	T	■	■	■	■
L	■	I	■	S	■	S	■	■	■	E	■	U	■	T
A	I	D	E	■	H	E	R	E	A	N	D	N	O	W
N	■	T	■	L	■	F	■	N	■	D	■	S	■	E
D	I	E	T	I	T	I	A	N	■	E	X	U	D	E
E	■	S	■	E	■	R	■	U	■	R	■	R	■	S
R	E	T	I	N	U	E	■	I	N	S	P	E	C	T

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	3	7	4	8	9	2	5	1
1	5	2	3	7	6	9	8	4
9	8	4	1	5	2	7	6	3
3	4	5	7	2	1	6	9	8
7	9	1	8	6	5	4	3	2
8	2	6	9	4	3	5	1	7
5	7	3	2	9	8	1	4	6
4	6	8	5	1	7	3	2	9
2	1	9	6	3	4	8	7	5

FAITH

Devotion with sincerity

God likes simplicity, and it is simple to worship Him. What He expects from us is an unremitting devotion. Valayapettai Sri Ramachariar said in a discourse that Lord Krishna tells Arjuna that whoever offers Him with true devotion, a leaf, a flower, a fruit, or some water (*patram, pushpam, phalam, Ttoyam* – Bhagavad Gita Chapter 9, Verse 26), He accepts the same with all delight. The verse tells the order of leaf, flower, and fruit, as in a plant's natural growth. If any of these are not available, even water can be offered. What is essential is an untainted devotion and not vain showmanship. Draupadi offered a leaf. The elephant Gajendra submitted a lotus. With all humility, Sabari gave fruits, and Acharya Sri Ramanuja fetched water for His poojas.

He is the refuge for all. Those who worship Him with devotion abide in Him, and He abides in them. He does not distinguish or exercise any partiality between high or low, poor or rich, learned or uneducated, handsome or ugly, tall or short.

Lord Krishna said He was warm-hearted with Akrura and disgusted with Kamsa. Pandavas were His life air, and Duryodhana was His foe. The prime reason was that Pandavas were affectionate towards the Lord and His devotees, while Duryodhana and his men were hateful to Him.

INBRIEF

'Indian consumers looking for AI-driven washing machines'

Indian consumers are looking for AI-driven washing machines, said Saurabh Baishakhia, Senior Director, Digital Appliances, Samsung India. To cater to this emerging trend, Samsung on Tuesday introduced a new range of 10 front load, AI-powered bespoke washing machines with capacity of washing bigger laundry loads of 12 kg each. The new washing machines come with flat glass doors with special AI features and are priced between ₹52,990-₹74,990.

Apple names Indian-origin Kevan Parekh as new CFO

iPhone maker Apple has named Kevan Parekh as its new chief financial officer in a move that adds to the growing roster of Indian-origin executives at C-suites of global firms. Mr. Parekh, 52, will take over the baton from veteran Luca Maestri, who will transition from his role on January 1, 2025. Mr. Maestri will continue to lead the Corporate Services teams, including information systems and technology, and real estate and development, reporting to CEO Tim Cook. PTI

BoB raises ₹5,000 crore via 10-year infrastructure bonds

Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Tuesday said it had raised ₹5,000 crore via long-term 10-year infrastructure bonds at 7.30% per annum. BoB said it accepted bids for ₹5,000 crore against a total received demand of ₹15,020 crore through 146 bids. The bonds are senior, unsecured, listed, rated, taxable bonds, with a fixed maturity of 10 years from the date of allotment, the bank said. The bonds are rated 'AAA' with stable outlook by CRISIL and India Ratings, the lender added.

Automakers to offer discount for scrapping old vehicles

Price cuts to be offered in the range of 1.5%-3% on commercial vehicles and PVs for limited period; decision comes after manufacturers' meeting with Road Transport Minister Gadkari

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Auto manufacturers have agreed to offer discounts between 1.5% and 3% on commercial and passenger vehicles (PVs) against a scrappage certificate of an old vehicle for a limited period of one or two years.

The decision was announced after a meeting between Indian automobile manufacturers and Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday.

However, this scrappage discount will replace the discount customers were getting from dealers for exchanging their vehicles. Further, manufacturers are free to offer these discounts on select models within their vehicle portfolio. The benefits were envisaged in the Scrappage Policy, 2021.

Cash for junk: PV makers will offer a discount of 1.5% on the ex-showroom price of a new car, or ₹20,000, whichever is less. PTI

Manufacturers of PVs such as Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors, and Mahindra & Mahindra will offer a discount of 1.5% on the ex-showroom price of a new car, or ₹20,000, whichever is less. This is against a PV scrapped by the owner in the last six months.

Manufacturers of commercial vehicles such as Tata Motors, Volvo Eicher and Isuzu Motors have offered a discount of 3% on the ex-showroom price for a commercial cargo vehicle with more than 3.5 tonne gross vehicle weight, and a discount of 1.5% for a commercial cargo vehicle with less than 3.5 tonne gross vehicle weight. The benefit can be claimed by only the owner of the vehicle.

India faces challenges to lift non-farm jobs: Moody's

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's continued thrust on infrastructure, with planned public spending of ₹11.11 lakh crore this year, would help improve the business environment, attract private investments and create jobs in sectors with higher salaries, but low participation in higher education, with pronounced gender gaps, remains a challenge for boosting non-agriculture jobs, Moody's Ratings said on Tuesday.

Noting that India's farm sector employment was still high compared to other large and fast-growing G-20 emerging markets, the rating major said: "Typically, if service and manufacturing sectors create more jobs to absorb the surplus labour supply in the agricultural sector, productivity in the agricultural sector will naturally increase as a result of the reduced labour base, and the new supply/demand equilibrium will lead to higher income for the agricultural sector".

Terming the low participation in higher education and gender gap in education attainment as a limiting factor to create a large workforce ready to take on higher value-added jobs, Moody's said this also posed a restraint on household income growth.

Also, "the elevated unemployment rate, which averaged 8.1% in 2023... combined with weak real wage growth" would hold back consumption growth.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,712	0.01
US Dollar	83.93	-0.07
Gold	74,350	0.74
Brent oil	79.90	-1.29

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3067.10	-1.90
Adani Ports	1478.35	-4.20
Apollo Hosp	6781.45	1.45
Asian Paints	3166.20	-5.15
Axis Bank	1181.25	10.95
Bajaj Auto	10501.60	69.05
Bajaj Finserv	1719.00	32.80
Bajaj Finance	6863.60	85.25
Bharti Airtel	1522.75	9.20
BPCL	349.05	-2.10
Britannia Ind	5764.30	-32.65
Cipla	1598.05	4.10
Coal India	531.40	-6.70
Divis Lab	4902.50	-23.75
Dr Reddys Lab	6962.95	19.65
Eicher Motors	4868.85	-6.35
Grasim Ind	2699.90	-36.70
HCL Tech	1711.60	-7.85
HDFC Bank	1637.75	-2.20
HDFC Life	739.55	13.90
Hero MotoCorp	5356.55	12.80
Hindalco	703.50	-8.35
Hind Unilever	2766.90	-54.25
ICICI Bank	1226.35	13.05
IndusInd Bank	1383.20	-1.30
Infosys	1900.10	23.95
ITC	500.60	-5.10
JSW Steel	944.00	-19.50
Kotak Bank	1803.35	-9.15
L&T	3702.70	60.80
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5751.55	11.60
M&M	2780.80	-12.30
Maruti Suzuki	12496.90	253.10
NestleIndia	2521.45	1.90
NTPC	409.65	-5.20
ONGC	328.85	1.00
PowerGrid Corp	335.35	-2.90
Reliance Ind	3000.90	-24.30
SBI Life	1838.95	42.70
State Bank	815.90	0.85
Shriram Finance Ltd.	3229.45	67.30
Sun Pharma	1789.40	16.95
TataConsumerProduct	1209.60	-10.45
Tata Motors	1077.25	-15.15
Tata Steel	154.70	-1.00
TCS	4497.15	-5.30
Tech Mahindra	1624.60	-15.55
Titan	3551.25	-78.95
UltraTech Cement	11300.35	-36.75
Wipro	517.15	-2.85

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 27

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.73	84.05
Euro	93.47	93.82
British Pound	110.68	111.11
Japanese Yen (100)	57.80	58.03
Chinese Yuan	11.75	11.79
Swiss Franc	98.85	99.23
Singapore Dollar	64.20	64.46
Canadian Dollar	62.15	62.40
Malaysian Ringitt	19.25	19.33
Australian Dollar	56.78	57.00

Source:Indian Bank

'Govt. eyes 3 cr. new basic bank accounts'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government is aiming at opening three crore new no-frills bank accounts under the PM Jan Dhan Yojana through 2024-25 to bring in all adults and 'neo-adults' into the banking system, a top official said.

As many as 53.13 crore bank accounts were opened as of August 14 under the scheme, unveiled 10 years ago, with two-thirds of them in rural and semi-urban areas. "About 80% of the accounts are operative, 55.6% belong to women, and only 8.4% accounts have zero balance. With ₹2.3 lakh crore in deposits, the average balance has risen from ₹1,065 in March 2015 to ₹4,352," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The accounts form a huge chunk of the 173 crore operative CASA [Current Account Savings Account] numbers in India's banking system. "We believe that most of the adults in the country have been covered with bank accounts and our focus is to cover left-out adults and neo-adults," the official added.

Zee, Sony agree to settle merger row

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

More than seven months after Sony Pictures called off the $10-billion merger with Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. (ZEEL) on account of the latter's 'delay' in completing merger, the firms said they were settling the dispute.

ZEE, Sony Pictures Networks India and group firm Bangla Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. said they had arrived at a comprehensive non-cash settlement, resolving all disputes concerning the the merger.

The entities mutually agreed to withdraw all claims against each other, in the arbitration proceedings at the Singapore International Arbitration Centre and related legal proceedings initiated in the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and other fora.

ZF Wind Power to add capacity in TN for ₹450 crore

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

ZF Wind Power, part of the ZF Group that makes wind turbine gear boxes, will expand annual gear-box manufacturing capacity at the Coimbatore plant to 12 GW from the current nine GW.

The plant, the firm's largest, excluding China, made 50 GW gearbox capacity in the last 15 years and plans to supply 50 GW in the next five years.

The capacity addition will be coupled with the installation of a 13 MW test rig, said Felix Henseler, CEO of ZF Wind Power. Total investments in Coimbatore will be ₹450 crore to create the additional capacity and the project will be completed by the end of next year. "We are fully booked (for 12 GW)."

The government had announced policy on repowering low-capacity wind turbines and ZF can meet this demand when the projects are commissioned.

ZF had supplied to offshore projects in other countries and had the capacity to do so in India when projects took off, said Peter Laier, Member, Board of Management, ZF Group. ZF also wanted to expand local supply and hence, was asking some of its suppliers to invest in India, said Mr. Henseler.

Scrapping unemployment dole sparks protests, unrest in Rajasthan

Mohammed Iqbal
JAIPUR

JOB SCENARIO

A decision by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Rajasthan, shortly after it came to power in December 2023, to discontinue the previous Congress regime's Rajiv Gandhi Yuva Mitra Internship Scheme and halt the recruitment of Mahatma Gandhi Seva Preraks has left more than 5,000 youths unemployed. The move has worsened the unemployment situation in Rajasthan, which is among the top five States with joblessness.

Ending both schemes has directly impacted those who were getting honorariums for their work, raising concerns about the decision's potential social and economic repercussions. The Rajiv Gandhi Yuva Mitras were young graduates placed in various government departments to publicise their welfare schemes. They received a monthly stipend of ₹17,500.

New jobs scheme

After prolonged protests by those who lost their jobs, supported by the Opposition Congress, the government recently agreed to replace the two schemes with a new one - the Chief Minister's Fellowship Programme. But this episode highlighted Rajasthan's grim unemployment situation.

Data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), shows Rajasthan's unemployment rate among those 15 years and older to have reduced marginally from 4.7% in 2020-21 and 2021-22 to 4.4% in 2022-23. More than 18.40 lakh unemployed candidates are registered with the government's Department of Skill, Employment and Entrepreneurship.

Jobless crisis: Prolonged protests forced the State to replace two job schemes with a new one - CM's Fellowship Programme. AFP

While the department's FY24 annual report states that 6.38 lakh candidates were paid a monthly unemployment dole of ₹4,500 between February 1, 2019, when the scheme was introduced and December 31, 2023, recipients have disputed it, saying payments were irregular and were conditional on meeting several difficult criteria.

Democratic Youth Federation of India's State Committee member Ritansh Azad told *The Hindu* that jobless youth were not only deprived of their allowance, but there was not enough work for them in the urban employment guarantee scheme, which was introduced with much fanfare in 2022. "There is hardly any work available in the informal sector even for less than statutory minimum wages. Construction workers wait endlessly daily at pick-up points in cities," he added.

Mr. Azad said the budget for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was gradually being reduced, which has had an adverse impact on villagers. Besides, as many as 20 incidents of paper leaks in the government recruitment exams since 2021, and the cancellation of the exams, had dampened candidates' spirits who are struggling to find jobs.

Women's reservation

The State government's recent decision to reserve 50% jobs for women in the recruitment of grade III teachers has also led to unrest among unemployed youths, who claim joblessness among men is much higher than among women and the quota will further reduce the scope for men. There are currently 25,000 vacant posts for grade III teachers in the State.

Employers' Association of Rajasthan secretary S.K. Patni said demand for employment in unorganised sectors like mining, manufacturing and construction was rising, but there was not enough capacity utilisation. "The organised sectors of textiles, tourism and handicrafts must be strengthened to create more jobs. They have recovered significantly since the COVID-19 pandemic," Mr. Patni said.

The bleak situation was apparent at a walk-in interview in July-end for helper posts at Jaipur's Sanganer international airport, when thousands turned up to fill 66 vacancies. These were low-paying private jobs, as the airport is operated by the Adani Group.

M. Hasan, retired professor at Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration said labour reforms that now allow corporates to fire workers without cause and restrict unionising, have wreaked havoc on urban employment conditions. "There is a dismal picture of urban employment, with rural populations migrating to urban labour mandis and aspirants for institutional jobs crowding coaching centres," he said.

'New corporate culture'

"It is not a happy scenario when urbanisation, unemployment and crime rates rise. When corporate culture overtakes the idiom of governance, overlooking the Preamble of the Constitution, it gives an impression that youths from SCs, STs, minorities and OBCs are being edged out from formal sectors like education, health and government," Dr. Hasan added.

Some experts in the State think promoting an investor-friendly environment could lead to job creation, while rural infrastructure development and promotion of agriculture-based industries could create jobs in the villages. Other suggestions include partnerships between industries and academia, to create skill development centres and changes in school curriculum to increase employability.

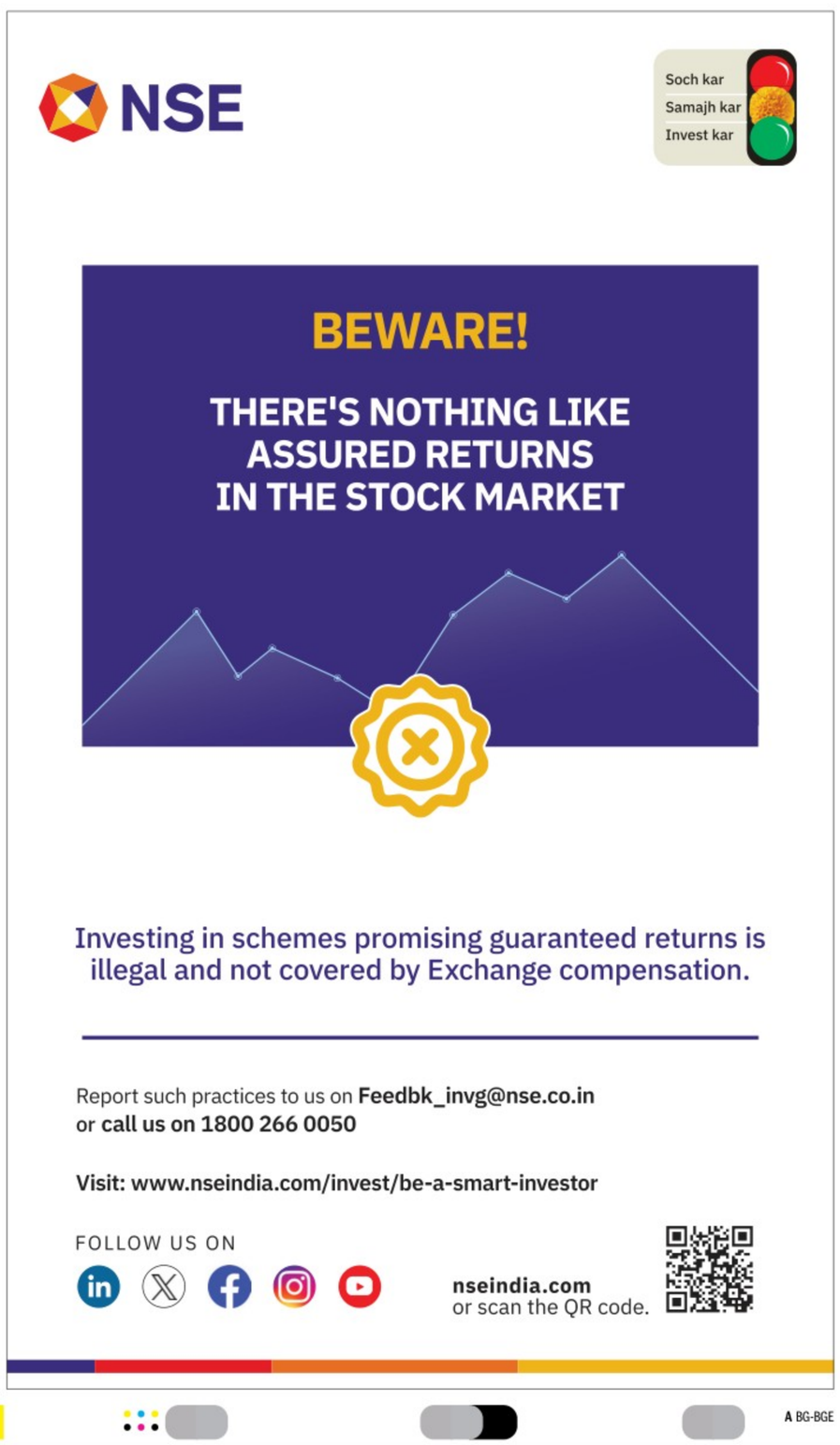
'Realty needs more transparency'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

India's tier-1 real estate market needs to improve in terms of 'consistent availability of information on legal issues and enforceability of regulations,' as per Global Real Estate Transparency Index 2024, released by real estate management firm JLL.

India ranked 43 among 89 countries surveyed with a 2.26 transparency score.

According to the JLL report, India needs to use more of GIS and drone mapping to compile land records data, improve the consistency of land-record availability and quicken dispute redressal.



NUKU'ALOFA

UN's Guterres issues 'global SOS' over fast-rising Pacific ocean

AFP

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres sent out a global climate "SOS" at a Pacific islands summit in Tonga on Tuesday, unveiling research that shows the region's seas rising much more swiftly than global averages. "A worldwide catastrophe is putting this Pacific paradise in peril" he said. AFP

GENEVA

UN calls out 'problematic' human rights policies by China in Xinjiang

AP

The UN Human Rights Office said on Tuesday "problematic" policies persist in China two years on from its major report citing possible "crimes against humanity" in Xinjiang. China has been accused of incarcerating more than one million Uighurs and other Muslim minorities in the northwestern Xinjiang region. AFP

MANILA

China 'biggest disruptor' of peace in Southeast Asia, says Philippines

AP

China is the "biggest disruptor" of peace in Southeast Asia, the Philippine defence chief said on Tuesday, as tensions between Manila and Beijing over disputed reefs and waters in the South China Sea escalate. Gilberto Teodoro made the remarks at a conference of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. AFP

KYIV

Five killed as Russian strikes pound Ukraine for second day

AFP

Russia fired a wave of drones and missiles at Ukraine that killed at least five persons, after a second night of heavy strikes across the war-battered nation. Monday's attack was one of Moscow's largest ever on Ukraine, prompting Kyiv to push for permission from allies to use Western-provided weapons to strike deep inside Russia. AFP

Sharif reiterates 'unwavering resolve' to root out terrorism from Pakistan

Prime Minister condemns the multiple attacks that took the lives of 37 civilians in the restive Balochistan province; he says doors of dialogue are open for those who believe in Pakistan and its Constitution, not for the enemies and terrorists

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in the restive Balochistan province as he reiterated the "unwavering resolve" of his government to root out terrorism from the country.

Heavily armed Baloch gunmen killed at least 37 people in separate attacks in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province on Monday, as insurgent attacks spiked in the region bordering Iran and Afghanistan.

Sad spectacle: A bus drives past a damaged vehicle, a day after the deadly attacks, in Bolan district of Pakistan's Balochistan. REUTERS

Chairing a Cabinet meeting a day after violence in Balochistan stunned the country, Mr. Sharif strongly condemned the terrorist incidents that resulted in the death of innocent Pakistanis including security personnel, state-run Radio Pakistan reported.

He said the sacrifices rendered by the people and the Armed Forces of Pakistan in the war against terrorism will not go waste. "The entire nation is committed for complete elimination of terrorism from the country," he said.

He said doors of dialogue are open for those who believe in Pakistan and its Constitution. However, no talks will be held with the enemies and terrorists, he added.

Referring to the terrorist incidents, he said it is no secret that terrorists of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), operating from Afghanistan, are behind terrorist attacks. He said the government has already sensitised the Afghan government on the issue.

Army operation

Meanwhile, twenty-five terrorists, including a top militant commander, were neutralised while eleven others were injured after Pakistan's security forces conducted "extensive" intelligence-based operations in the restive Khyber tribal district against the TTP and two of its affiliate groups, the Army said on Tuesday.

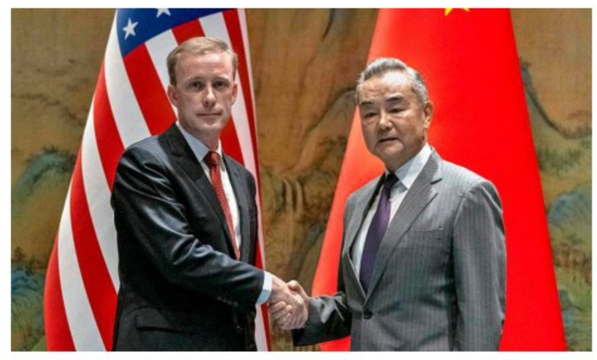
U.S. and China working to avoid conflict, says Sullivan

Associated Press
BEIJING

U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said Washington and Beijing are working to ensure the competition between them does not veer into conflict, as the two sides started talks on a relationship that has been severely tested during President Joe Biden's term in office.

Mr. Sullivan is meeting over two days with Wang Yi, a senior foreign policy official for Chinese leader Xi Jinping, in a scenic lake area on the northern outskirts of Beijing.

"President Biden has been very clear in his conversations with President Xi that he is committed to managing this important relationship responsibly," Mr. Sullivan told Mr. Wang.



Last leg: Jake Sullivan told Wang Yi that the Biden administration is committed to managing U.S.-China ties responsibly. AP

No major announcements are expected, though Mr. Sullivan's meetings could lay the groundwork for a possible final summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping before Biden steps down in January.

Wang, the director of the Communist Party's Central Foreign Affairs Commission Office, noted that the China-U.S. relationship has gone through twists and turns in the past few years.

"The key," he said, "is to keep to the overall direction of mutual respect, peaceful co-existence, and win-win cooperation."

Maldives police probe an alleged attempt to topple government

Agence France-Presse
MALE

The police in the Maldives are investigating an alleged attempt to topple President Mohamed Muizzu by stirring anger over the Indian Ocean archipelago's worsening financial woes.

Last week, the main commercial bank in the upmarket tourist destination drastically reduced the foreign exchange spending allowed for Maldivians, sparking widespread anger.

Mr. Muizzu has slammed the move as an "illegal attempt" to overthrow his government, by making him unpopular and encouraging street protests.

"An investigation has been launched into the alleged coup attempt," the police said in a statement on Monday.

There have been no demonstrations in the capital Male, but scathing criticism of the government has erupted online.

'Bot' accounts

"Hundreds of 'bot' accounts have been used on social media to encourage people to take to the streets to overthrow the government and incite public unrest," police said.

The bank said the changes, which they have since rescinded, came "in response to the escalating usage of foreign currency spend on cards and the static sale of foreign currency to the Bank".

The international credit rating agency Fitch downgraded the Maldives in June and warned it could be headed for a sovereign default, after its foreign currency reserves dropped to $492 million in May.

The downgrade came weeks after the International Monetary Fund warned the Maldives against a looming "debt distress", as the small but strategically placed country eyes further borrowing from main creditor China.

Khamenei opens door for discussions with U.S. over Iran's nuclear programme

Associated Press
DUBAI

Iran's supreme leader opened the door on Tuesday to renewed negotiations with the U.S. over his country's rapidly advancing nuclear programme, telling its civilian government there was "no harm" in engaging with its "enemy."

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's remarks set clear red lines for any talks taking place under the government of reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian and renewed his warnings that Washington wasn't to be trusted.

Setting course: Ayatollah Ali Khamenei meets with Masoud Pezeshkian and his Cabinet in Tehran on Tuesday. REUTERS

But his comments mirror those around the time of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, which saw Tehran's nuclear programme greatly curtailed in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. Yet it remains unclear just how much room Mr. Pezeshkian will have to manoeuvre, particularly as tensions remain high in West Asia over the Israel-Hamas war and as the U.S. prepares for a presidential election in November.

"This does not mean that we cannot interact with the same enemy in certain situations," Khamenei said. "There is no harm in that, but do not place your hopes in them."

Khamenei, who has the final say on all state matters, also warned Mr. Pezeshkian's Cabinet, "Do not trust the enemy."

Khamenei, 85, has occasionally called for talks or dismissed them with Washington after then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the deal in 2018.

Israeli hostage rescued from Gaza tunnel as war rages

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

The Israeli military said a hostage was rescued on Tuesday from a Gaza tunnel, more than 10 months after the 52-year-old Israeli Bedouin was seized during the Hamas attack that triggered a devastating war.

Kaid Farhan Alkadi is one 251 people abducted by Palestinian militants during the October 7 attack on southern Israel.

Violence meanwhile raged on in the war that has ravaged the Gaza Strip and displaced nearly all of its 2.4 million people.

Sport

Resilient Bagan enters the final

DURAND CUP

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Mohun Bagan Super Giant made a spectacular comeback as it recovered from a two-goal deficit to hold Bengaluru FC (BFC) 2-2 in regulation time and then clinched the issue 4-3 via the tie-breaker to secure a passage into the final of the 133rd Durand Cup on Tuesday.

Bagan will take on NorthEast United FC in the final scheduled here on Saturday.

The tie-breakers saw the sides convert the first three chances before Bagan 'keeper Kaith made two saves by rightly judging the successive attempts of Halicharan Narzary and Aleksandar Jovanovic.

Hero! Bagan custodian Kaith comes up with one of his two saves in the tie-breaker. DEBASISH BHADURI

Gurpreet Singh Sandhu saved the final shot taken by Bagan's Scottish striker Greg Stewart but that did not prove enough.

Jason Cummings, Manvir Singh, Liston Colaco, and Dimitri Petratos scored in the tie-breaker for Bagan, while Edgar Mendez, Rahul Bheke and Pedro Capo found the target for BFC.

Earlier, Sunil Chhetri converted a penalty in the 43rd minute and Vinith Venkatesh doubled the lead for BFC in the 51st.

Bagan, which mounted a serious comeback, reduced the margin when Dimitri Petratos struck from the spot in the 68th before Anirudh Thapa found the equaliser in the 84th.

Siraj to miss first round games, Jadeja allowed extended rest

DULEEP TROPHY

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Mohammed Siraj will miss first round games due to illness and Ravindra Jadeja has been allowed an extended period of rest by the BCCI's national selection committee, which announced a few changes to the squads on Tuesday.

The revised squads:

India-A: Shubman Gill (Capt.), Mayank Agarwal, Riyan Parag, Dhruv Jurel (wk), K.L. Rahul, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Tanush Kotian, Kuldeep Yadav, Akash Deep, Prasidh Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan, Vidwath Kaverappa, Kumar Kushagra and Shaswat Rawat.

India-B: Abhimanyu Easwaran (Capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant (wk), Musheer Khan, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Navdeep Saini, Yash Dayal, Mukesh Kumar, Rahul Chahar, R. Sai Kishore, Mohit Awasthi and N. Jagadeesan (wk).

India-C: Ruturaj Gaikwad (Capt.), Sai Sudharsan, Rajat Patidar, Abishek Porel (wk), Suryakumar Yadav, B. Indrajith, Hrithik Shokeen, Manav Suthar, Gaurav Yadav, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Anshul Khamboj, Himanshu Chauhan, Mayank Markande, Aryan Juyal (wk) and Sandeep Warrier.

India-D: Shreyas Iyer (Capt.), Atharva Taide, Yash Dubey, Devdutt Padikkal, Ishan Kishan (wk), Ricky Bhui, Saransh Jain, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Aditya Thakare, Harshit Rana, Tushar Deshpande, Akash Sengupta, K.S. Bharat (wk) and Saurabh Kumar.

Ashoka lives up to the billing in the Sundarban Plate

RACING

HYDERABAD: Trainer D. Netto's ward Ashoka, ridden by Suraj Narredu, won the Sundarban Plate, the main event of Tuesday's (Aug. 27) races. The winner is owned by M/s. Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni, Rama Seshu Eyunni, Donald Anthony Netto & Tripuranenivenkata Aditya Chowdary.

1. SILVER PHANTOM PLATE (DIV. I): GATIMAN (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Verrazzano (Suraj Narredu) 2, N R I Northpower (Kuldeep Sr.) 3 and That's My Mission (Surya Prakash) 4. 1/2, 10-1/2 and 5-1/2. 1m, 13.89s. ₹24 (w), 11, 10 and 11 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 30, SHW: 13 and 10, FP: 58, Q: 27, Tanala: 106. Favourite: Verrazzano. Owner: Mr. Hari Sharan Devgan. Trainer: Magan Singh.

2. SILVER PHANTOM PLATE (DIV. II): FLYING FURY (G. Naresh) 1, Freedom Touch (Santosh Raj) 2, Diablo (P. Sai K) 3 and Bellingham (Akshay K) 4. 7, 3-1/4 and 1-1/2. 1m, 13.72s. ₹13 (w), 10, 28 and 15 (p). SHP: 77, THP: 55, SHW: 13 and 114, FP: 172, Q: 188, Tanala: 669. Favourite: Flying Fury. Owner: Mr. Hussein Sultanali Nensey. Trainer: Robin Reddy Kondakalla.

3. KAMAREDDY PLATE (DIV. I): CARNIVAL LADY (Shivansh) 1, Shah Of Iran (Afroz Khan) 2, D Yes Boss (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and True Icon (Gaurav) 4. 3-1/4, 3-3/4 and 3/4. 1m, 26.55s. ₹66 (w), 22, 14 and 56 (p). SHP: 44, THP: 148, SHW: 30 and 23, FP: 490, Q: 174, Tanala: 4,509. Favourite: True Icon. Owners: Mr. L. Arun Kumar & Mr. Rameshbhai Amrutlal Mehta. Trainer: N. Ravinder Singh.

4. KAMAREDDY PLATE (DIV. II): ARMSTRONG (Suraj Narredu) 1, Brooklyn Beauty (Mohit) 2, Wallop And Gallop (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and Fortunatus (Ashad Asbar) 4. 3-1/2, 2 and Shd. 1m, 26.60s. ₹18 (w), 11, 16 and 20 (p). SHP: 28, THP: 50, SHW: 11 and 21, FP: 41, Q: 30, Tanala: 103. Favourite: Armstrong. Owners: Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta & Mr. Rajesh Sanghani. Trainer: A. Imran Khan.

5. B. MARIDESHWARA RAO MEMORIAL CUP: IMPERIA (P. Ajeeth K) 1, Glorious Power (Afroz K) 2, Santa Barbara (Md. Ekram) 3 and Worcester (Likith Appu) 4. 2-3/4, 1 and 1-1/4. 1m, 13.88s. ₹19 (w), 11, 12 and 15 (p). SHP: 27, THP: 36, SHW: 16 and 10, FP: 32, Q: 19, Tanala: 69. Favourite: Glorious Power. Owners: M/s. Kapil Agarwal & Shailendra Singh. Trainer: Ananta Vatsalya.

6. SUNDARBAN PLATE: ASHOKA (Suraj Narredu) 1, Malaala (Ajay K) 2, Strauss (Mukesh) 3 and Best Buddy (R.S. Jodha) 4. 1/2, 1-1/2 and 2-1/2. 1m, 12.31s. ₹15 (w), 10 and 24 (p). SHP: 45, THP: 50, SHW: 14 and 21, FP: 56, Q: 43, Tanala: 205. Favourite: Ashoka. Owners: M/s. Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni, Rama Seshu Eyunni, Donald Anthony Netto & Tripuranenivenkata Aditya Chowdary. Trainer: D. Netto.

7. BHUPALPALLY PLATE: N R I ULTRAPOWER (Akshay Kumar) 1, See My Attitude (Afroz K) 2, Voice Of A Dream (Surya Prakash) 3 and Indian Temple (A.A. Vikrant) 4. 1, Neck and 4-1/4. 1m, 42.04s. ₹22 (w), 10, 10 and 16 (p). SHP: 29, THP: 39, SHW: 10 and 18, FP: 50, Q: 34, Tanala: 227. Favourite: N R I Ultrapower. Owner: Mr. Ravinder Reddy Male. Trainer: N Ravinder Singh.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹955 (344 tkts.) & 30%: 168 (835 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 807 (59 tkts.), (ii) 195 (467 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 220 (147 tkts.), (ii) 66 (597 tkts.).

GOOD RESPONSE

Around two million tickets sold: Paris Paralympics organisers

GETTY IMAGES

The organisers of the Paralympics announced on Tuesday that over two million tickets have been sold as the Games prepare to open on Wednesday. "We have sold around two million tickets," said Paris 2024 president Tony Estanguet at a media interaction along with International Paralympic Committee president Andrew Parsons.

READY TO ROAR

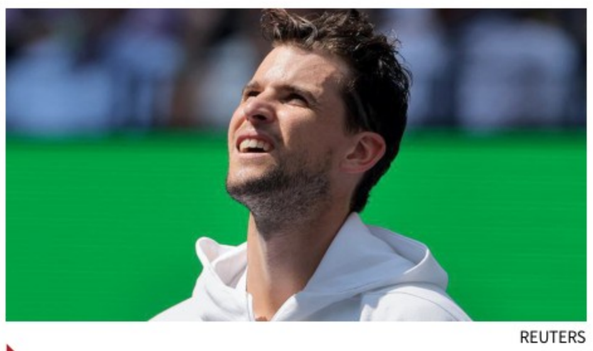
Knight to lead England in ICC Women's T20 World Cup

FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

The England squad for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup was named on Tuesday. **The team:** Heather Knight (capt.), Danni Wyatt, Sophia Dunkley, Nat Sciver-Brunt, Alice Capsey, Amy Jones (wk), Sophie Ecclestone, Charlie Dean, Sarah Glenn, Lauren Bell, Maia Bouchier, Linsey Smith, Freya Kemp, Dani Gibson and Bess Heath.

THIEMSPEAK

'You don't really get this feeling, in my case, in life outside of tennis'



REUTERS

It's not really comparable to anything else. You don't really get this feeling, in my case, in life outside of tennis, because it's like a real high. It's like being on drugs a little bit, I guess — 2020 US Open champion Dominic Thiem on missing the winning feeling when he retires from the sport in October.

NO RESTRICTIONS

Spectators allowed to move in the stands during play at the US Open

AP

Under a new policy instituted this year at the US Open, people with tickets for certain sections at every court can move around whenever they want, even during play. Spectators seemed to love it on day 1; might take some players a bit to get used to this, which also was tried at the Australian Open in January.

Jay Shah set to become youngest ICC chairperson

Amol Karhadkar
CHENNAI

Jay Shah. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Jay Shah, the incumbent secretary of the Board of Cricket for Cricket in India (BCCI), is set to become the youngest chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

He will take over from New Zealand's Greg Barclay on December 1.

An ICC statement confirmed that Shah's was the only name proposed on Tuesday, the deadline for each of the 16 ICC Board of Directors to nominate their preferred candidate.

With Shah being the lone candidate in fray, he will be elected unopposed and will take over from Barclay, who will step down in November.

"We stand at a critical juncture where it is increasingly important to balance the coexistence of multiple formats, promote the adoption of advanced technologies, and introduce our marquee events to new global markets," said Shah in the media release. "Our goal is to make cricket more inclusive and popular than ever before."

August club

Shah, 35, will thus join an august club of Jagmohan Dalmiya, Sharad Pawar, N. Srinivasan and Shashank Manohar in the list of Indians who have headed the game's governing body.

Shah's elevation from the post of the BCCI secretary and ICC Director to the ICC Chair was a mere formality once Barclay announced his decision last week to not seek an extension.

Shah has been involved in cricket administration for a decade. Having served as the joint-secretary of the Gujarat Cricket Association, he was elected unopposed as the BCCI secretary in October 2019. Since 2021, he has also been serving as the Asian Cricket Council chairperson.

With the ICC rules prescribing an Independent Chair, Shah will have to give up his other posts. It will be interesting to see his successor as the BCCI secretary.

Defending gold: Sumit and Avani will spearhead India's campaign in Paris 2024. FILE PHOTOS

India's strong contingent eyes record medal tally

Sumit and Avani will lead a balanced mix of youth and experience as the nation targets a double-digit haul in gold buoyed by the performances of its athletes in recent times

PARIS 2024

Press Trust of India
PARIS

Battered by life but not beaten by its many challenges, an 84-strong contingent of Indian para-athletes, the largest ever in the country's history and a heady mix of youth and experience, would be eyeing an unparalleled gold rush when the Paralympic Games begin here on Wednesday.

India won a record 19 medals, including five gold, in Tokyo in 2021 for a 24th-place finish.

Three years on, the country's target is more than 25 medals with a double-digit haul in gold. India won a record 111 medals, including 29 gold, at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games last year.

This was followed by unprecedented success at the World Para Athletics Championships in May where the country snared 17 medals, including half a dozen gold for a sixth-place finish in the overall standings.

Several medal winners in Hangzhou are in this Paralympics team, including top stars like world record-holding javelin thrower Sumit Antil (F64) and rifle shooter Avani Lekhara (10m Air Rifle Standing SH1). Both of them would be defending their gold medals won in Tokyo.

The other top contenders are archer Sheetal Devi, Hokato Sema (shot put) and Narayana Konganapalle (rowing). India is competing in 12 sports this time, as against nine by a 54-member team in Tokyo.

Shooter Manish Narwal and shuttler Krishna Nagar are also among those who would look to defend their gold.

Deepthi Jeevanji (women's 400m T20; intellectual disability), Rio Olympics gold-medallist Mariyappan Thangavelu (men's high jump-T63), and Yogesh Kathuniya (men's discus-F56), would also be aiming to add to their medal tally.

Shuttler Krishna Nagar (men's singles SH6) is also looking good to defend his gold medal won in Tokyo, more so after winning the title in the World Para Badminton Championships in Thailand in February.

Suhas Yathiraj (men's singles SL4 and mixed doubles SL3-SU5), who won a silver in Tokyo, will again be a medal contender.

Antil and shot putter Bhagyashri Jadhav, will be the joint flag-bearers at the Opening Ceremony.

India keen to bury the ghosts of the past in T20 World Cup

Belief: Harmanpreet will be optimistic about her team's chances in the tournament. BCCIWOMEN@X

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday named a tried and tested squad for the Women's T20 World Cup under the leadership of Harmanpreet Kaur, hoping the experienced bunch takes the team to an elusive ICC trophy.

Barring Uma Chetry, all the squad members who were part of an Asia Cup campaign in July have been retained for the marquee event beginning in the UAE from October 3.

The women, who too have all the resources at their disposal, would be expected to cross the finish line on this occasion.

Harmanpreet first captained the team in the 2018 edition and since then India has reached one final but it has largely been a story of missed opportunities.

Its biggest challenge will be to beat Australia as usual. Both teams are in the same group which also includes Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The squad: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-capt.), Shafali Verma, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (wk), Yastika Bhatia (wk)*, Pooja Vastrakar, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh, D. Hemalatha, Asha Sobhana, Radha Yadav, Shreyanka Patil* and Sajana Sajeevan (* subject to fitness clearance).

Travelling reserves: Uma Chetry (wk), Tanuja Kanwer and Saima Thakor.

Non-Travelling reserves: Raghvi Bist and Priya Mishra.

India's fixtures: Oct. 4: vs. New Zealand, Dubai, 7.30 p.m. IST; **Oct. 6:** vs. Pakistan, Dubai, 3.30 p.m.; **Oct. 9:** Sri Lanka, 7.30 p.m.; **Oct. 13:** vs. Australia, Sharjah, 7.30 p.m.

Reeth begins revival before Manush and Szocs seal issue

UTT

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Debutant Ahmedabad SG Pipers outplayed U Mumba TT 9-6 and jumped to the top of the table with 24 points from three matches in the Ultimate Table Tennis League here on Tuesday.

U Mumba's Manav Thakkar continued his winning streak in singles, defeating Manush Shah 2-1 in the opening rubber.

In a battle between friends, Manav kept neutralising Manush's powerful forehand shots with his retrieving ability. The latter made quite a few unforced errors and went down in three games.

Reeth Rishya was under pressure as she took on Sutirtha Mukherjee. The 29-year-old, who had lost her singles contests against Goa Challengers and Puneri Paltan, fought back to prevail 2-1.

After losing the first game, she stormed into contention by taking the second 11-8. In the decider, Reeth matched her opponent shot for shot during the short and long rallies. Her win pulled Pipers level (4-4).

Turning it around: Reeth got the better of Sutirtha and recorded her first singles win of the season. R. RAVINDRAN

In mixed doubles, Manush and Bernadette Szocs proved too strong for Manav and Maria Xiao.

As Pipers' Lilian Bardet and U Mumba's Quadri Aruna took the stage, an exciting encounter was on the cards as both are known for their attacking style.

It was Aruna who put it across Bardet 2-1 in a match that witnesssed some thrilling rallies.

For Aruna, the victory would have been a huge relief after the losses to G. Sathiyan (Dabang Delhi) and Cho Seungmin (Jaipur Patriots).

With a healthy (7-5) lead in the bag, Ahmedabad needed just one game in the fifth rubber to seal the issue.

Szocs pulls up her socks

The women's singles clash between Szocs and Xiao saw the latter win the first game before Szocs, world ranked 13th and the highest in the league, pulled up her socks and cruised home in the next two.

The results:

Ahmedabad SG Pipers bt U Mumba 9-6 (Manush Shah lost to Manav Thakkar 2-11, 9-11, 11-8; Reeth Rishya bt Sutirtha Mukherjee 5-11, 11-8, 11-7; Manush & Bernadette Szocs bt Manav & Maria Xiao 11-4, 11-8, 11-8; Lilian Bardet lost to Quadri Aruna 5-11, 11-9, 9-11; Szocs bt Maria 9-11, 11-4, 11-6).

Swiatek gets off to a wobbly start; Gauff and 'rusty' Djokovic breeze into second round

US OPEN

Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK

Iga Swiatek began her bid to capture a second US Open title with an uneven straight-sets win over lucky loser Kamilla Rakhimova on Tuesday.

Swiatek saw off 104th-ranked Rakhimova of Russia 6-4, 7-6(6) to extend her season-leading record to 54 match wins.

However, it was an unconvincing display by the Pole who committed 41 unforced errors and had to fight off three set points in the second set before she steadied the ship.

Defending champion Novak Djokovic eased into the second round with a straight-sets victory over qualifier Radu Albot on Monday as Coco Gauff launched her defence of the women's title with a convincing victory.

Djokovic, seeking his 25th Grand Slam title and his first since his victory at Flushing Meadows last year, wasn't his sharpest self.

But he was more than a match for 138th-ranked Albot, breaking the Moldovan six times on the way to a 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 victory.

Flying start: Gauff fired 10 aces and needed just 66 minutes to beat 66th-ranked Gracheva. GETTY IMAGES

He notched a men's record 78th match win on Arthur Ashe Stadium, where he said the "electric" energy of the night session was unlike any other.

"The night sessions here are best in the world," said Djokovic, who capped the action on a day that drew a record 74,641 spectators according to the US Tennis Association.

That included a day-session crowd of 42,886 and a record-setting night-session crowd of 31,775.

Seeded second behind Jannik Sinner, Djokovic is vying to become the first man to repeat in New York since Roger Federer won five straight US Opens from 2004-2008.

He's coming off an emotional triumph at the Paris Olympics, but Djokovic has yet to capture a Grand Slam title this year.

He had 10 double faults among 40 unforced errors, but was nevertheless in full control throughout the two hour, seven minute contest that ended shortly before midnight.

Gauff, meanwhile, powered into the second round with a 6-2, 6-0 victory over France's Varvara Gracheva.

The 20-year-old American fired 10 aces and needed just 66 minutes to beat 66th-ranked Gracheva. She saved eight break points – including two with aces in the final game.

India's top player Sumit Nagal crashed out after a 6-1, 6-3, 7-6(8) defeat against Dutch player Tallon Griekspoor.

IMPORTANT RESULTS

First round:

Men: Mensik (Cze) bt 19-Auger-Aliassime (Can) 6-2, 6-4, 6-2; Goffin (Bel) bt 22-Tabilo (Chi) 7-6(7), 6-1, 7-5; 7-Hurkacz (Pol) bt Skatov (Kaz) 6-3, 7-6(4), 7-6(3).

Shang (Chn) bt 27-Bublik (Kaz) 6-4, 3-6, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4; 8-Ruud (Nor) bt Yunchaokete (Chn) 7-6(2), 6-2, 6-2; 28-Popyrin (Aus) bt Kwon (Kor) 7-5, 6-2, 6-3; 12-Fritz (USA) bt Carabelli (Arg) 7-5, 6-1, 6-2; 6-Rublev (Rus) bt Wild (Bra) 6-3, 7-6(3), 7-5; 32-Lehecka (Cze) bt Fucsovics (Hun) 1-6, 6-4, 6-3, 3-0, ret; ; 29-Cerundolo (Arg) bt Ofner (Aut) 5-7, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2; 9-Dimitrov (Bul) Jacquet (Fra) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; 18-Musetti (Ita) bt Opelka (USA) 7-6(3), 1-6, 6-1, 7-5; Nakashima (USA) bt 15-Rune (Den) 6-2, 6-1, 6-4; 21-Baez (Arg) bt Darderi (Ita) 6-4, 6-7(3), 6-0, 7-6(4); Griekspoor (Ned) bt Nagal (Ind) 6-1, 6-3, 7-6(6); 20-Tiafoe (USA) bt Kovacevic (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 7-5; 2-Djokovic (Srb) bt Albot (Mol) 6-2, 6-2, 6-4.

Women: 25-Pavlyuchenkova (Rus) bt Preston (Aus) 6-2, 6-0; Errani (Ita) bt Bucsa (Esp) 3-6, 6-0, 6-4; 31-Boulter (GBr) bt Sasnovich (Blr) 5-7, 6-2, 6-1; Dolehide (USA) bt 11-Collins (USA) 1-6, 7-5, 6-4; 1-Swiatek (Pol) bt Rakhimova (Rus) 6-4, 7-6(6); Shibahara (Jpn) bt Saville (Aus) 6-3, 4-6, 7-6(6). Niemeier (Ger) bt 32-Yastremska (Ukr) 6-4, 6-7(3), 6-4; 26-Badosa (Esp) bt Golubic (Sui) 6-0, 6-3; 3-Gauff (USA) bt Gracheva (Rus) 6-2, 6-0; ; 14-Keys (USA) bt Siniakova (Cze) 6-4, 6-1; 19-Kostyuk (Ukr) bt Kessler (USA) 6-2, 6-3; 13-Navarro (USA) bt Blinkova (Rus) 6-1, 6-1; 8-Krejcikova (Cze) bt Bassols Ribera (Esp) 7-6(3), 6-2; 20-Azarenka (Blr) bt Starodubtseva (Ukr) 3-6, 6-1, 6-1; 29-Alexandrova (Rus) bt Tomova (Bul) 6-7(4), 6-0, 7-5; 2-Sabalenka (Blr) bt Hon (Aus) 6-3, 6-3.

Fallen seeds

Men: 15-Rune, 19-Auger-Aliassime, 22-Tabilo, 27-Bublik

Women: 11-Collins, 32-Yastremska

Brilliant Abhinav powers Lions home

His unbeaten knock gives the Shivamogga side a six-wicket win over Gulbarga in high-scoring contest; skipper Padikkal, Smran shine for Mystics

MAHARAJA TROPHY

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Abhinav Manohar's belligerent unbeaten 76 (34b, 2x4, 9x6) carried Shivamogga Lions to a six-wicket win over Gulbarga Mystics in a high-scoring contest in the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 tournament at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Tuesday.

Asked to bat first, Gulbarga made 206 for five, with skipper Devdutt Padikkal (50, 35b, 8x4, 1x6) and R. Smaran (63, 30b, 1x4, 7x6) leading the way.

But Shivamogga chased down the stiff target with five balls to spare as Abhinav, coming in at No. 4 with the score at 70 for two after 8.2 overs, carted the bowlers to all parts of the ground.

He added 34 runs for the fourth wicket off 16 balls with Hardik Raj (17, 7b, 2x6) and 74 undefeated runs off just 27 balls with Rohan Naveen (36 n.o., 14b, 3x4, 3x6) to hand the Mystics their second successive loss.

Earlier, Gulbarga lost Luvnith Sisodia off the second ball of the innings but rebuilt through Padikkal and Smaran. Significant contributions also came from V. Vyshak (38, 21b, 5x4, 1x6) and Praveen Dubey (24 n.o., 12b, 2x4, 1x6).

But even their best efforts couldn't save the day as Abhinav and the Lions had the last laugh.

Match-winning knock: Abhinav's unbeaten 74 contained two fours and nine sixes. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The scores: Gulbarga Mystics 206/5 in 20 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 50, R. Smaran 63, V. Vyshak 38) lost to Shivamogga Lions 207/4 in 19.1 overs (Nihal Ullal 32, Abhinav Manohar 76 n.o., Rohan Naveen 36 n.o.).

Mysore Warriors 191 for six in 20 overs (S.U. Karthik 29, C.A. Karthik 30, Karun Nair 80 n.o.) bt Hubli Tigers 117 in 18.4 overs (Mohammed Taha 33).

Pradosh, Indrajith, and Boopathi boost TNCA XI

BUCHI BABU

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
COIMBATORE

TNCA XI had three half-centurions on day one of the Buchi Babu tournament fixture against Mumbai at the Sri Ramakrishna College Cricket ground on Tuesday. While Pradosh Ranjan Paul (65, 87b, 4x4) and B. Indrajith (61, 115b, 7x4) engaged in a 74-run stand for the third wicket, No. 5 batter Boopathi Vaishna Kumar (63 batting, 121b, 6x4) played till stumps as the host reached 294 for five.

Running hard

Pradosh played late and ran hard for his runs (seven twos and four threes) as his first boundary came off the 66th ball he faced. Just as he started to get expansive, Tanush Kotian trapped him in front.

Indrajith – who was in the middle of a chanceless knock and after notching up his third consecutive fifty-plus score – lost his stumps to off-spinner Himanshu Singh.

Pradosh. M. PERIASAMY

On a day that also saw a drizzle interrupting the proceedings in the afternoon, a compelling sequence of events happened at the boundary line as the players were about to call it a day.

Shreyas Iyer was bowling the 90th over in an action quite similar to Sunil Narine's. Suryakumar Yadav was fielding in the deep mid-wicket boundary and had a quite a few young enthusiasts requesting for his autograph and picture. The India T20I captain obliged as many requests as possible in between Shreyas' darting off-spinners.

As if this was not enough, R. Sonu Yadav deposited the final ball of the day well over Suryakumar's head before the fans rushed inside the ground to continue showering their love.

An engrossing day two awaits.

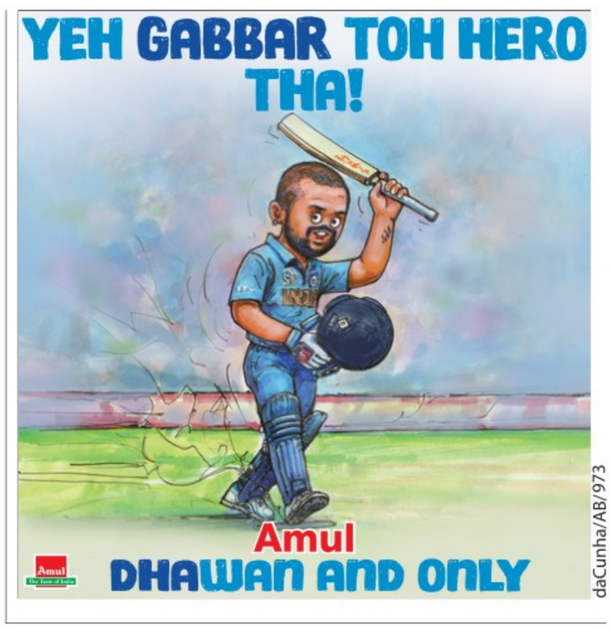
The scores (round three, day one):

At Coimbatore: TNCA XI 294/5 in 90 overs (Pradosh 65, Indrajith 61, Boopathi 63 batting) vs. Mumbai; **Toss:** TNCA XI.

At Salem: Gujarat 321/7 in 90 overs (Kshitij Patel 62, Jaymeet Patel 125 batting, Dhrushant Soni 44, M. Siddharth 5/74) vs TNCA President's XI. **Toss:** Gujarat.

At Tirunelveli: Madhya Pradesh 207 in 74.5 overs (Shubham Kushwah 48) vs Hyderabad 52/0 in 13 overs. **Toss:** MP.

At Dindigul: Baroda 255/6 in 84.3 overs (Shaswat Rawat 41, Vishnu Solanki 52, Ninad Rathva 48 batting) vs Chhattisgarh. **Toss:** Baroda.



BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Shivam's big ton helps Combined City XI take lead over Raichur

M.B. Shivam top-scored with 187 as Combined City XI secured the first innings lead over Raichur in a drawn KSCA U-19 inter-zonal tournament encounter.

The scores: Raichur 188 in 59.2 overs (Aniketh Reddy 25, Mohd. Mohib Jamadar 92, Pranav Aswath 4/55) & 119/5 in 30 overs (Aniketh Reddy 26, Mohd. Mohib Jamadar 50) drew with Combined City XI 391/9 in 90 overs (Ravi Kairav Reddy 94, M.B. Shivam 187, Rehan Mohammed 52 n.o., T. Srivardhan 3/63).

Mysore 188 in 81.5 overs (P. Dhakshath 26, S. Dhanush Gowda 56, Ronith Iyengar 5/19) drew with Bangalore City XI 287/5 in 90 overs (Yashas Vihaan 68, D.S. Bhushan 53, Vrateen Prashant Padti 62, V. Nabhas 43 n.o., Eesa Hakeem Puthige 29 n.o.).

Vice President's XI 219 in 86.2 overs (Rishav Appachu Manavatira 70, H. Rithvik 38, Aditya Navalgund 3/44) drew with Secretary's XI 187 in 79.5 overs (A. Siddharth 39, S. Vajra 42, Gaurov Shanbhag 66, Samyak Vellalore 4/31, Siddarth Krishnamurthy 3/21, M. Malatesh 3/42).

Mangalore 305/9 decl. in 75.4 overs (R.R. Rohan 60, Akshay A. Kamath 42, R. Pratham 57, Nikhil Aithal 58, S. Shivaprasad 3/39) drew with Shivamogga 206 in 62.1 overs (Yashas V. Murthy 32, M.M. Vaibhav 25, S. Shivaprasad 65, R. Pratham 3/37).

Tumkur 155 in 52.2 overs (H.M. Abhishek 40, Akhilesh Chavan 43, Manikanth Shivanand 4/27) & 198/8 in 46 overs (G.S. Raiyan Malik 25, K. Ambresh 51, Akhilesh Chavan 70 n.o., Manikanth Shivanand 3/55) drew with Dharwad 361/9 decl. in 80.2 overs (Sujay Korawar 54, Tanush Dumale 25, Shahbaz Jamakhandi 59, Manikanth Shivanand 68, Mohammad Zaid Attar 55, Mohammed Arshan 3/42).

Bangalore Zone 250 in 73.2 overs (S. Daivik 41, Hemang Srinivasan 32, Dhruv Vasu 53, Vaibhav Sharma 3/29) drew with President's XI 295/5 in 90 overs (Aadesh Urs 144 n.o., Siddhant Pathak 81).

Advaryuh's six-for highlights Sri Kumaran Public School, ICSE's facile win

Advaryuh Rajesh's six-wicket haul (6/13) helped Sri Kumaran Public School, ICSE register a convincing eight-wicket victory over Bethany HS in the K.M. Ramprasad Shield U-16 schools second division tournament.

The scores: Bethany HS 47 in 30 overs (Advaryuh Rajesh 6/13) lost to Sri Kumaran PS, ICSE 48/2 in 15.5 overs.

Sudarshan Vidyamandir, ICSE 45 in 33.4 overs (Suvik Gill 3/5) lost to Poorna Vikasa Vidyalaya 49/2 in 3.4 overs (S. Adhithyan 36 n.o.).

Florence PS 102 in 43.3 overs (B.S. Naganandan 3/23, P.J. Vishist 3/18) bt Chinmaya Vidyalaya 93 in 29.1 overs (Nandan K. Neelagar 32, K. Vaishnav 3/22, K.G. Vishal 4/21).

Venkat International PS 175/1 in 26 overs (Aditya Gundalli 105 n.o., Tejas 52 n.o.) bt Army PS 134/8 in 26 overs (J. Uthisran 29) [Match reduced to 26 overs owing to wet outfield].

St. John's HS 65 in 22.3 overs (Ronel Alex George 3/20, Dwijavanth Pandukal Rajaguru 3/17) lost to Ryan International, Kundanahalli 66/2 in 12.1 overs.

Sri Vani Educational Centre Trust 182/5 in 29 overs (Param S. Patil 30, Advik Chandrashekar 92) lost to Innisfree House School 184/6 in 26.3 overs (Surya Rajesh 66, Mohamed Hisham 47, Tanav Vikrant 3/36).

INBRIEF

Gukesh holds Caruana; Firouzja consolidates lead

D. Gukesh played out a hard-fought draw yet again, signing peace with top seed Fabiano Caruana, while Frenchman Alireza Firouzja *(in pic)* beat World champion Ding Liren to stretch his lead by a full point after the seventh round of Sinquefield Cup. R. Praggnanandhaa's draw with Ian Nepomniachtchi was his seventh on the trot.

The results (round 7): Alireza Firouzja (5) bt Ding Liren (3); R. Praggnanandhaa (3.5) drew with Ian Nepomniachtchi (2.5); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (3.5) bt Wesley So (3.5); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (3.5) drew with Anish Giri (2.5); Fabiano Caruana (4) drew with D. Gukesh (3.5).

Juventus rides on Vlahovic's heroics to go top of Serie A

Striker Dusan Vlahovic scored twice to help Juventus secure a comfortable 3-0 victory at Hellas Verona in Serie A on Monday, sending Thiago Motta's side to the top of the table. Juventus is the only side which has kept its points tally at a maximum over the opening two match days of the Italian top flight.

The results: Serie A: Cagliari 1 (Piccoli 44) drew with Como 1 (Cutrone 54); Verona 0 lost to Juventusntus 3 (Vlahovic 28, 53-pen, Savona 39).
LaLiga: Villarreal 4 (Cardona 26, Barry 60, Jailson 64-og, Parejo 90+10) bt Celta Vigo 3 (Iglesias 12, Mingueza 31, Starfelt 80)

LIVE TELECAST

KSCA Maharaja T20 Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 3 & 7 p.m.
Tennis: US Open, Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8.30 p.m. & 4.30 a.m. (Thursday)
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 1 a.m. (Thursday)

Rutuparna exits early in Korea Open badminton

Press Trust of India
SEOUL

Rutuparna Panda and Swetaparna Panda bowed out in the opening round of the women's doubles event at the Korea Open badminton tournament after a 18-21, 5-21 loss against Taiwan's Hsieh Pei Shan and Hung En-Tzu in Seoul on Tuesday.

The women's singles competition will see three Indians – Aakarshi Kashyap, Malvika Bansod and Ashmita Chaliha – in fray.

Bairstow, Moeen left out of England white-ball squads

Associated Press
LONDON

Wicketkeeper-batter Jonny Bairstow and spinner Moeen Ali may have played their last games for England after being dropped on Monday in a shakeup of the white-ball squads to face Australia. England and Australia will play three T20Is followed by five ODIs.

Five uncapped players have been called up for Marcus Trescothick's first assignment as interim coach, with left-arm seamer Josh Hull, all-rounder Jacob Bethell and pacer John Turner selected in both formats, while Dan Mousley and Jordan Cox come into the T20 squad.

The squads: ODI: Jos Buttler (capt.), Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Ben Duckett, Josh Hull, Will Jacks, Matthew Potts, Adil Rashid, Phil Salt, Jamie Smith, Reece Topley, John Turner.
T20I: Buttler (capt.), Archer, Bethell, Carse, Jordan Cox, Sam Curran, Hull, Jacks, Liam Livingstone, Saqib Mahmood, Dan Mousley, Rashid, Salt, Topley, Turner.

Richter wins his maiden under-17 World title

SNOOKER

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Germany's Christian Richter defeated Thailand's Lomnaw Issarangkun in the final to emerge as the IBSF World under-17 boys' snooker champion at KSBA here on Tuesday.

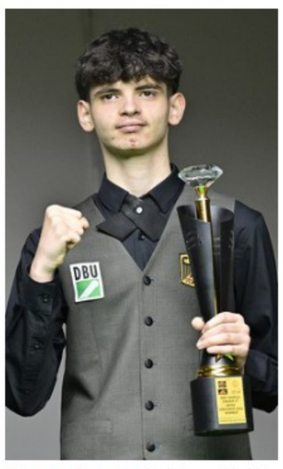
Richter, who claimed his first international title, started well, making breaks of 44 and 67 to wrap up the first two frames.

Issarangkun managed to win the third frame, but went on to offer Richter plenty of chances to visit the table. Richter, less error prone than his rival, prevailed 4-1.

A pleased Richter termed the triumph as the best of his young career.

He had earlier reached the quarterfinals and last-16 stages in previous editions of this tournament.

In the women's under-21 semifinal, India's Natasha Chethan overcame Chan Wai Lam 62-57, 69-29, 56-50. Natasha will face Thailand's Narucha Phoemphul in the final.



Young champ: Richter with his big prize. K. MURALI KUMAR

The results: Under-17: Boys: Final: Christian Richter (Ger) bt Lomnaw Issarangkun (Thai) 78-20, 71-22, 14-78, 68-16, 82-21.
Under-21: Men: Group stage: Mahendra Chouhan bt Aaron Quinn (Ire) 41-54, 73-28, 65-15, 64-33; Michal Szubarczyk (Pol) bt Srikanth Gadda 83-36, 94-37, 46-71, 60-25; Sebastian Milewski (Pol) bt Tathya Sachdev 70-24, 34-67, 71-1, 73-31.
Women: Semifinals: Narucha Phoemphul (Tha) bt R.T. Mohitha 76-17, 65-48, 57-7; Natasha Chethan bt Chan Wai Lam (HK) 62-57, 69-29, 56-50.

Ten million ways to boost Test cricket

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

In a larger sense, sport is about the strong helping the weak. In a world where it is argued that sport is an artificial construct, a fantasy, we pour into it our ideals. What is essentially meaningless can be transformative if we back it with an ethical purpose.

Perhaps I overanalyse. Perhaps sport is only about winning and/or making money. Yet, with the International Cricket Council set to slightly even out the balance between the haves of the game (India, England, Australia) and the have-nots (the rest) there might be hope of keeping Test cricket alive.

The plan is to have a special fund to help nine Test-playing countries (the have-nots) fund their red-ball game, and to give players around the world a decent return from their profession.

Jay Shah, the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India had suggested some time back that the ICC start a fund worth five or ten million dollars. How each of the three countries will contribute has to be worked out. Or even how the money is to be distributed.

Cricket Australia chairman Mike Baird, who raised the subject in January this year may have been responding to countryman Steve Waugh's criticism that the administrators are not doing enough for the game. But no matter. At least something is being seen to be done. Franchise cricket has made the top cricketers enormously rich, but left the less fortunate ones behind.

The plan is to ensure that each Test player gets a minimum of ten thousand dollars per Test (the Top Three are not part of the distribution, only the contribution), and that cricket boards perennially struggling for funds get a boost.

Slippery slope

While we will know the financial details soon enough, the psychological details might be more difficult to put together at this stage. For example, what will be the pound of flesh the 'Big Three' might demand? Also, are we entering a slippery slope here, with countries notorious for their corrupt boards (and there are a few) seeing this as an opportunity to do even less work for the game and its players than before?

What is significant is that India are on board, and are in fact one of the prime movers of the plan. They get nearly 40% of the ICC's five-billion dollar global revenue, thanks to television rights. Zimbabwe get 3%, so the contrast is stark.

Yet, the Big Three need Zimbabwe and West Indies and Sri Lanka and other nations, for without their presence, Test cricket would be reduced to a three-team affair.

The recent summit at Lord's where the future of the game was discussed said Test cricket might be restricted to six countries in four years' time – and even that sounds optimistic – unless something is done.

Already the West Indies, a once-great team, struggle to field a team of their best players, most of whom are happier playing domestic franchises including the IPL, the richest in the world. A number of franchises across the world have Indian owners.

The owners of Delhi Capitals will become the first overseas franchise to own an English county when their 120-million pound bid for Hampshire is ratified by the England Cricket Board. Rajasthan Royals, meanwhile, are eyeing Yorkshire.

Again, from this side of the time frame it is difficult to see where the acquisitive streak of Indian franchise owners will take the game. It is not difficult to imagine world cricket – if one takes the argument to its extreme – being run by Indian businessmen and marketing managers rather than cricketers and politicians.

The economist Adam Smith who lived a 100 years before the first-ever Test match was played, said something that is relevant here: "It is not from the benevolence of the butcher or the baker that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own self-interest. We never talk to them of our own necessities, but of their advantages."

World cricket might be at a turning point. In the best case scenario, Test cricket will be boosted by the new fund, and we will continue to get greater variety in the game.

In the worst case, the ICC is throwing good money after bad. But it's a chance worth taking.

Karthik has the last laugh

NATIONAL CHESS

P.K. Ajith Kumar
GURUGRAM

In the end, Karthik Venkataraman proved more equal than the others. More equal than Surya Shekhar Ganguly, even.

Karthik, Ganguly and Neelash Saha ended with nine points from 11 rounds at the 61st National chess championship on Tuesday: when the tie was broken at using the Buchholz System, they finished in that order.

Karthik's tie-break score was 78, against Ganguly's 77.5 after the former beat Mitrabha Guha and the latter drew with Himal Gusain. "I hadn't even looked at the tie-breaker score before the game, but was determined to play for a win," said Karthik.

Important results (final round): Himal Gusain (RSPB) 8.5 drew with Surya Shekhar Ganguly (PSPB) 9; Aronyak Ghosh (RSPB) 8.5 drew with M.R. Lalith Babu (PSPB) 8.5; Mitrabha Guha (RSPB) 7.5 lost to Karthik Venkataraman (AP) 9; Neelash Saha (RSPB) 9 bt Sammed Shete (Mah) 7.5; Abhijeet Gupta (PSPB) 8.5 bt N.R. Vignesh (RSPB) 7.5; Diptayan Ghosh (RSPB) 8.5 bt Sankalp Gupta (Mah) 7.5; P. Iniyan (TN) 7.5 drew with N.R. Visakh (RSPB) 8; Deep Sengupta (PSPB) 7 lost to P. Shyaam Nikhil (RSPB) 8.5; Ajay Karthikeyan (TN) 8 bt Swapnil Dhopade (Mah) 7.5; Koustuv Dash (Odi) 7 lost to S.P. Sethuraman (PSPB) 8; Sayantan Das (RSPB) 8 bt Dinesh K. Sharma (LIC) 7; J. Deepan Chakravarthy (RSPB) 7.5 drew with Vignesh Advait Vemula (TS) 7.5; Shrayan Majumder (Mah) 8 w/o S. Ravi Teja (RSPB) 7; Arpith S. Bijoy (Ker) 7 lost to M.R. Venkatesh (PSPB) 8; Daksh Goyal (Del) 7 lost to Viani D'cunha (Kar) 8.

Final standings: 1-3. Karthik, Ganguly, Saha 9; 4-9. Diptayan, Aronyak, Gusain, Lalith, Abhijeet, Shyaam 8.5; 10-18. Sethuraman, Venkatesh, Sayantan, Ajay, D'cunha, Nitin, Arjun Adireddy, Vishakh, Shrayan 8.

Karthik...reigning supreme. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP